

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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CONTENTS.

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS:	Epitome of News	427
The Charge of the Bishop of Oxford	Foreign Miscellany	427
Mr. Miall's Motion	LEADING ARTICLES:	
Ecclesiastical Notes	Summary	428
The Liberation Society	Sudden Fall in the Barometer	429
The Church Establishment in Rural Parishes	"The Twenty-fifth Clause"	429
The Irish Church Synod	Spain and Cuba	430
Ecclesiastical Affairs in Germany and France	How it Strikes a Stranger	430
RELIGIOUS AND DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:	Men and Things in America	431
County Associations	LITERATURE:	
CORRESPONDENCE:	Professor and Mrs. Fawcett's Essays	432
Our Farm Labourers	Some New Poems	432
Alleged Secession to the Established Church at March	Quarterly Reviews	433
The Polynesian Slave-Trade	Brief Notices	433
Imperial Parliament	Miscellaneous	434
The Education Act	Gleanings	435
The Permissive Bill	Births, Marriages, and Deaths	435
The Endowed Schools Commission and the Education Department	Bank of England	435
Our Farm-Labourers	Markets	435
	SUPPLEMENT:	
	ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS:	
	Baptist Union	441
	United Methodist Free Churches	441

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE CHARGE OF THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.

IN reading the Primary Charge of Bishop Mackarness, we experience a strange mingling of pleasure and pain, such as is certainly not common in ecclesiastical controversy. For it is with unfeigned admiration and sympathy that we acknowledge the tone of quiet dignity, of self-control, and of candour, which characterises an address well worthy of the high position which the bishop holds in general reputation. And never do we feel the evils involved in the political establishment of religion more painfully, than when we are compelled to differ from conclusions which are sustained, if not by consistent logic, at least by thoroughly Christian feeling. Seldom do we hear from any lips, whether in the pulpit or in Parliament, words more worthy of a patriotic Englishman than those in which the bishop declares his earnest desire, "to accept the judgment of his countrymen, especially of the good and wise, in this grave debate." And equally with him would we "deprecate the premature intervention of political partisanship, in a question which requires other and far higher methods for its solution." Still farther we venture to assure the bishop, that men who argue the question as he has done, are never included by us amongst those whose hesitation to adopt our conclusions is imputed by us, whom we presume he esteems his "foes," to "mere dishonesty." Equally with him, we lament that sacred questions and still more sacred names should be involved in a "contest between political factions," and made the sport "of the unrighteous influences which too often decide" such conflicts. But so long as the Church is maintained as a political institution, or if that description be offensive, we will say, as a legally established branch of the national constitution, we confess we are unable to see how these painful results can possibly be avoided. Surely we cannot be asked to forego legitimate effort for what we conscientiously believe to be, in the interests of Church and State alike, a most needful reform. And since the position of the Church makes this reform unattainable except through Parliamentary action, it is inevitable that the usual means for securing that action should be employed. If in the course of such a process, with the political excitement involved, religion should seem to be

dishonoured by incongruous associations with the hustings and the polling-booth, we contend that the responsibility for this lies not with us, nor indeed with our opponents, but with those who centuries ago, unconscious of coming ill, substituted political power for spiritual energy in the maintenance of spiritual truth. But words like those of Bishop Mackarness cannot be spoken in vain. For ourselves, we cannot despise a warning animated by motives so thoroughly good. And we trust that in the last struggle of the great crisis which is surely at hand, leaders on both sides may imitate the excellent example thus set them, in moderating, from a consideration of the sacred nature of the issue, the political animosity of their followers.

On the whole, Bishop Mackarness has fairly stated the grounds on which, from our point of view, disestablishment is urged. We do maintain, as he alleges, "that the interference of the civil power in things spiritual is injurious to religion." But when he describes as our second ground, "the pre-eminence conferred on Churchmen by this interference," and "the wrong done to those who for conscience' sake are unable to enjoy it," we think that quite unconsciously he has given an invidious colouring to our broad objection to religious inequality. We venture to assure him that this objection has grounds deeper than any personal feeling. The unselfish spirit which once animated the Nonconformists in declining for themselves political privileges, because they believed that the inevitable extension of such privileges to the Romanists would be injurious to the nation, has not been so wholly lost by their successors as to make us incapable of personal sacrifices, if thereby we could serve a higher and more general good. But we are conscientiously convinced that the case is not so. The kingdom of Christ, which is first of all "righteousness," then "peace and joy," cannot to our minds be promoted by any exceptional privileges accorded to one section of His church at the expense of injustice to others. And to go no further, it is surely unjust that national property once employed for purposes which all approved, but now inevitably diverted from its original application, should, in the divided state of modern opinion, be devoted to the maintenance of an ecclesiastical organisation and a creed, which are either emphatically disapproved or contemptuously ignored by more than half the population. It is in vain that any attempt is made to identify the modern Protestant and strictly sectarian church with the old branch of the Roman communion, which, when it embraced the whole people, might fairly be called Catholic. For none know better than those who attempt such an argument, that this identification would be repudiated with indignation by two-thirds of the really religious adherents of the English Episcopalian Church. It is because that Church is not the same, because it is reformed, because it burns what once it adored, and adores principles which once it condemned, that this modern religious communion is regarded by the majority of its members as the bulwark of religion in the land. We have no wish to dispute their opinion. But when this religious communion ceased to be Catholic, we will not say in relation to Christendom, but in regard to the people of this land, we maintain that it lost all right to appropriate to its own exclusive use the property which belongs to the whole people of England. This is an injustice which no modi-

fication can heal. It is this which is at the root of all the intolerable unfairness with which Nonconformity has been treated at the Universities, in the endowed schools, and in the parishes. Concurrent endowment would be no cure; and we entirely repudiate its possibility. It is not merely, nor so much, because it wrongs the individual members of any passing generation, that we insist upon the radical reform of this wrong, but because it maintains in the nation's heart a bitter and perennial spring of discord and uncharitable strife.

The sense of social inferiority which Bishop Mackarness supposes to rankle in our breasts is to our minds quite a secondary consideration. Let justice be done, and the question as to which Church may maintain the closest relation with rank and fashion is too trivial and contemptible to be worth serious discussion. We rejoice to agree with the *Guardian* in its comments on this charge, in thinking that "nothing that law could do in the way of stripping the Church of honour, or inherited possessions, or local wealth and reverence, could take from the Church her history, her spirit, her traditions, her faith and teaching." Let it be granted that these "give her a position among men which to the Dissenting bodies is unattainable." All we say is, let her rely upon these, and not upon arbitrary injustice. But the bishop seems to think that, when he has pointed out the not unreasonable probability that a Church armed with so great a prestige will maintain it in spite of disestablishment, he has proved the attainment of our aims to be impossible. And here he shows traces of the same misunderstanding which led him, as we pointed out above, to give a slightly invidious colouring to one of our main grounds of argument. If our aim were to destroy the prestige of the Episcopalian Church, or to divert to plebeian conventicles the stream of emblazoned carriages, the argument would no doubt be unanswerable. But, since all we ask of her is the abandonment of possessions to which she is not entitled, and of unjust political privileges which, as we are now told, are unnecessary to her moral or social supremacy, we fail to see what such observations have to do with the questions in hand. Indeed, we are perfectly aware—and this we wish our opponents would once for all understand—that, in freeing the Episcopalian Church from associations of political injustice, we should only be disencumbering her of a weight which sadly hampers her in her efforts to gain the affections of the people. But when the Bishop of Oxford, who ought to know, tells us in effect that the relations of the Episcopalian Church to others would be simply embittered by the change; when he warns us that by the abolition of arbitrary privilege we "may call out a more offensive—at least a more emphatic—assertion of superiority," we can only lament that so low an estimate of the generosity and charity of a great religious communion should be formed by so high an authority. For the only interpretation which we can give to such language is this, that while the clergy, as State officers, are not disinclined to be graciously condescending, they are incapable of exercising the more difficult virtue of brotherly charity towards friendly rivals on equal terms. We quite agree that it would "be calamitous to enter on a revolution for the sake of reversing the positions occupied in society by the pastor and the local preacher." But, strange though

it may appear to his lordship, we are quite prepared to find with equanimity at the close of the revolution that, in merely social matters, "the rivals occupy their old positions still."

We cannot but regret that in this able charge the political question of disestablishment is needlessly mixed up with the more purely religious question of church organisation and of ministerial orders. We deprecate, quite as much as any bishop can do, "the condition of things in which Christians are known, not as Christians, but as disciples of some sectarian master, or of a pontifical autocrat." But we think it quite as much to be deprecated that Christians should be known, not as Christians, but as Churchmen on the one hand, or Dissenters on the other—a distinction, be it observed, involving elements of bitterness, wholly wanting where the description of men as Independent, or Episcopalian, or Baptist indicates only the different modes in which, animated by the same spirit, they are seeking to serve the one Supreme Lord.

In the conclusion of his charge, the Bishop dwells with distinctness and even severity upon four evils which he feels to be involved in "the present temporal position" of the Church. These are, the want of ecclesiastical discipline, the corrupt administration of patronage, the obstructions created by political entanglements, and the anomalous character of the ecclesiastical court of appeal. We wish him God-speed in his endeavour to remove these abuses. For we are convinced that the more seriously such reforms are attempted from within, the more untenable will "the present temporal position" of the Church be felt to be. There is something pathetic in the allusion of so good and earnest a man to the dying words of Hooker, "meditating the number and nature of angels, and their blessed obedience and order, without which peace might not be in heaven." But there occur to us the words immediately added by that illustrious and saintly man. "I have lived," said he, "to see this world is made up of perturbations." And we cannot help believing that we should best prepare for that blessed obedience and peace which is maintained without Act of Parliament above, by endeavouring, however difficult the enterprise be, to carry out on earth the Divine idea of a kingdom "not of this world," and by an earnest spiritual life preserved serene amidst a world "made up of perturbations."

MR. MIALI'S MOTION.

Many of our readers will have seen from the daily papers that Mr. Miall has given notice to move his resolution on the revenues of the Established Church as an amendment on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, on Friday, May 17. It is not certain that the question will come on even then. The 17th is the last day before the Whitsun holidays, and the great disadvantage at which a private member, and even a Minister, is put when the House is about to rise, and many members have already left town, need hardly be pointed out. We understand that Mr. Miall will endeavour to secure another evening after the holidays; but should he fail to do so, he will adhere to the 17th. One of the incidental results of moving the resolution as an amendment would be that Mr. Hughes, M.P., would be precluded from formally moving the amendment of which he has given notice.

Many of our readers are probably ignorant of the great difficulties that beset private members in bringing motions before the House. There being much competition in the matter, periodical ballots for precedence are essential, and those who have motions to introduce may be many times unsuccessful in securing a first or even a secondary position on the Order Book on Tuesdays or Fridays, the only open nights. This has been the case, we believe, with the junior member for Bradford, who has thus far only succeeded in obtaining precedence on the Friday evening already mentioned. It is, moreover, to be remembered that soon after Whitsuntide day sittings begin—that is, Government measures have priority on Tuesdays and Fridays, when the House sits from twelve o'clock till seven; so that the only chance for the motions of private members is after nine o'clock, when a House cannot always be made or kept.

The final form in which the motion appears on the notice paper is as follows:—

Mr. Miall: To move that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying Her Majesty that by means of a Royal Commission, full and accurate particulars may be procured of the origin, nature, amount, and application of any property appropriated to the use of the Church of England.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE House of Lords has been particularly busy—for the House of Lords—with ecclesiastical measures. The measures are small, but the division upon them is great. Thus, last Tuesday, Earl Nelson moved the second reading of what is termed the Church Seats Bill, the object of which is to free those seats from appropriation and from pew-rents which were intended by the founders of the churches to be free. An abuse in the direction of letting and appropriation has grown up, and this measure is intended to stop it. Legislation, down to the smallest detail, is required for everything connected with the Establishment; in Free Churches all such things are managed by self-government, without Acts of Parliament and without expense. An abuse is put down by public opinion, which is found to be more effective than any legislative measure. This abuse in the Establishment, however, does not promise to have much prospect of speedy abolition. The bill was severely criticised by both spiritual and lay lords, and only passed a second reading by the skin of the teeth. One sitting in committee will probably take out all its virtue.

Thursday saw another bill, and a more important one, also brought on for second reading. The present Union of Benefices Act has utterly failed, and the Bishop of London proposes to amend it. The principle of the new is the same as the principle of the old measure—viz., that where church edifices are found to be no longer necessary they may be removed, and both edifices and endowments transferred to other districts. The new bill may be called in a certain sense "revolutionary." It dispenses altogether with parochial consent. Whether the parishioners like it or not, their church and their minister may be removed at the arbitrary pleasure of external ecclesiastical authorities. We have no wish to frighten Churchmen, but really is not this disestablishment and disendowment, aye, and proposed by a bishop? Even we do not ask for such a destruction of Church edifices, although we may think both disestablishment and disendowment to be "necessary." But, what in a bishop is a commendable reform is, in a Nonconformist, flat robbery and spoliation.

On Friday the Shortened Services Bill was brought up, and a significant alteration made. It is to be entitled the Act of Uniformity Amendment Bill. This, also, is the work of a bishop, who thus looks complacently upon an avowed invasion of that hitherto sacred enactment. This bill was amended, but not substantially altered. Afterwards, Lord Salisbury moved the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Trusts Bill, which was to enable the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to receive trusts for special purposes; in fact, to make another inroad on the Mortmain Laws in favour of the Established Church. It was found, however, during the debate, that a sufficient inroad, for the marquis's purposes, had been made already, and so the bill was withdrawn.

The Union of Benefices Bill has been somewhat criticised by the press. The *Times* says that something should be done, but, it being twenty years since the Lords' Committee on Spiritual Destitution made its report, that has been obvious for a long time. "Something should be done" has been almost a motto with the friends of the Establishment for generations past, but the rule is to do nothing until it is too late. Canon Gregory, of St. Paul's, does not even like what is now proposed. He asks, in a letter to the *Times*, how it is that the number of churches which was thought to be necessary two hundred years ago is considered to be excessive now? He has found that the population of the City was then just about what it is at present, and therefore he can imagine no other cause for the change of feeling than that "then the clergy all resided and shepherded their flocks, and that now scarcely any reside and so leave them to the wolf." The *Pall Mall Gazette*, in a carefully-written article, recognises the utility of the measure, but fears that it may be opposed, even in the House of Lords, although the Bishop of London backs it. Our contemporary says:—

If the opposition were to come from Mr. Miall it would be more intelligible. The party which wishes to see the Church of England disestablished and the

revenues now devoted to ecclesiastical purposes devoted to secular objects may naturally dislike the removal of any of the abuses which at present help to strengthen their case. So long as the property held by the Church of England is appropriated to maintain incumbents in districts where there is only work for half or less than half the actual clergy, there is always a colourable argument, to say the least, to be brought against a system which allows the enjoyment of public money to be systematically severed from the performance of public duties. It is very much less easy to enlarge on the enormities of a Church Establishment if it presents no more occasion for criticism than is afforded by a sufficient number of fairly paid clergymen, who are neither worked to death by having too many nor encouraged to live in idleness by having too few people to look after. But the very reason which would make opposition in Mr. Miall intelligible makes it the reverse in that section of Conservatives who are generally found standing out against any change whatever in the existing machinery of the Church. The only way to make the agitation in favour of disestablishment innocuous is to remove every abuse on which it can by possibility fix itself.

Pray when did Nonconformists oppose any measure—even such as this—for Church reform?

But, if there should be an episcopally-proposed scheme of disestablishment in the City, why not in some other places—say, in Cornwall? A graphic and humorous writer in the *Sword and Trowel* of this month, whose style "bewrays him," writes an account of a visit he has paid to the parish of Mullion in Cornwall. He gives a lively description of the services, and the vicar's distress at the want of appreciation of them on the part of his parishioners. "Daily matins" are customary in this parish, but as the vicar says, in an address to his parishioners, "as there is not one of you that ever comes to this, it is impossible you should know the nature of it." Then there is a celebration on Sunday, but, says the upbraiding vicar, "about half-a-dozen persons attend this service, with an average of one communicant, beyond those connected with the officials"—the population being 700. At "evensong" there is an attendance of 18; but public catechising has been given up, as "no children were sent to me for examination." And so the parishioners are scolded for this terrible neglect of "all the means of grace" and "all the forementioned privileges," and especially scolded because they do not keep the church and churchyard in repair. "What heathen," he asks, "what Jew, Turk, or infidel would be content to do this?" Says the writer:—

This fine specimen of Christian charity is worthy of careful study. Those who do not attend this priest's performances are worse than the heathen in his judgment. The State allows him to be sole lord over the parish burial-ground, and excludes all other ministers from using it, and yet the man is in a rage with Nonconformists for not keeping in order a churchyard from the use of which they are excluded. Is this priest insane? Is not all priesthood akin to lunacy? Could a human being read such a height of folly if he had not been ordained thereunto by a bishop? Forced upon a parish, to perform for it spiritual functions which almost every inhabitant repudiates, the vicar, instead of leaving the people alone and eating his tithe-pig in retirement, must needs abuse those to whom his very office is an insult and an oppression.

After quoting a letter from the locality, the author adds:—

The same correspondent assures us that Mullion is by no means a solitary case of a State-paid priest without a people; empty churches are common enough. He very properly says, "Those who know West Cornwall are aware of such facts, and many churches which have cost hundreds of pounds to restore are little better than empty sepulchres on Sabbath days. Money is forthcoming from outside the parishes to revive and furnish up the buildings in the churchyards; but thoughtful people exclaim, 'Behold the temple and the priest, but where is the congregation?' I venture to assert that in scores of Cornish parishes not half-a-dozen male adults regularly attend the church. The incumbents may remonstrate, and print 'unspoken addresses,' yet empty pews and unoccupied seats impeach the pulpits."

Now, is there anything worse than this in the City, for which the Bishop of London has brought in his wholesale measure of disestablishment?

It is a long step from Cornwall to the Highlands, but we find just a similar illustration—one of many—in a characteristic speech recently delivered in Edinburgh by Dr. Guthrie. The Doctor tells the anecdote in his own style, which we should spoil if we attempted abbreviation:—

I was travelling from Thurso to Tongue once, and when in the parish of Reagh—it happened to be the Monday of preaching—on looking down from the hill-side on which I was walking, I observed almost on the sands of the seashore a manse, a garden, and a church. On looking down we saw the beadle open the church door and begin to ring the bell. I looked east and west, up above and down below, but I could not see neither man, woman, dog, nor cat, nor any other living creature. By-and-by I saw the door of the manse opened, and out came three black-coats and a woman. They passed through the manse garden and into the church. Then the bell ceased to sound, and that completed the congregation. A mile beyond this we heard the sound of the Gaelic tongue, and came upon a congregation of three thousand people. Further on, we came to a church, where there was a very considerable congregation. The first was the Established Church, with its three black-coats and the woman and the beadle; the second church with the English congregation was the

Free Church, and the congregation of three thousand outside was also the Free Church. I could not understand this. That was a rich fact, which I then determined to tell some night in the Music Hall. When I got to Tongue, I asked my landlady if the Gaelic congregation had not been in the Established Church before them. "No," she said, "the Established minister has only one native, and he died the last year." (Laughter.) Think of the condition of this poor minister attending the funeral of *ultimus Romanorum*!

We naturally pass from this to the Presbyterian meetings that have just been held in London, where the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church has just concluded its sittings. This year is held by the Presbyterians to be the three-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Presbyterianism in England, which dates, as our readers know, from the little church established in Wandsworth in 1572, and which was hunted down by Parker's hounds of law. This year is also the tercentenary of the death of Knox. At the opening of the Synod last week, the moderator, the Rev. J. Thain Davidson, gave an admirable address *apropos* to the occasion. The Synod then proceeded to discuss the affairs of the churches. A statement submitted by Dr. Leone Levi showed that the number of congregations during the year was 132; that a large proportion of the churches were freehold; and that the sum of 219,000*l.* was the total amount insured against fire upon the buildings; the number of communicants was 24,203; and of seat-holders, 29,204. The amount received from seat-rents had been 18,852*l.*; from collections, 20,256*l.*; for congregational purposes, 5,046*l.*, making the total sum of 44,154*l.* The total amount received for the principal schemes of the Church had been 69,688*l.*, being at the rate of 2*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* per communicant. The amount paid in stipends had been 29,655*l.*, and the number of manse and free houses given with the stipends and free houses were forty-four. The *Weekly Review*, the organ of the denomination, considers that everything now appears to be in favour of Presbyterianism, and that "almost all the disestablished churches" are tending towards it. Small sects—we do not speak in contempt—are apt to think in this way.

The Irish Episcopal Church is proceeding in the work of reconstruction at a vigorous pace, indeed, at such a vigorous pace as to alarm not only its own dignitaries but a good many high and dry Churchmen in England. The report of the Revision Committee was laid on the table on April 8. After the disposal of some minor matters, it was urged that the consideration of this report should be postponed. This suggestion, however, met with little favour, although it was backed by a reference to the resistance which the Episcopal Bench had given to the scheme of the committee. It was decided by a large majority to consider the report. This work was accordingly begun. One of the first proposals was to reject all the Apocryphal lessons. Archbishop Trench did his utmost to prevent this, but after a long discussion, it was decided by a large majority both of clerical and lay members to leave out all the Apocryphal lessons. The Calendar was then discussed, and the Archbishop notwithstanding, the whole of the Saints' days were struck out. Next the word "Presbyter" was substituted for the word "priest" throughout the Prayer-book, and now the Synod is discussing the Athanasian Creed. What short work this Free Church makes of the old ecclesiastical idols! So short that the *Guardian* appears to doubt whether the Church can remain a true Episcopal Church. It is horrified at the rate of progress, stigmatises it as a "mania for change" and asks, "Could our bishops admit men ordained after the mutilated rites proposed to cures in the Church of England?" No wonder when Saints' Days are all abolished. But we had hitherto supposed that Episcopal ordination was good whatever the rite, the virtue lying in the Episcopal hands. Have we been utterly mistaken? Does the virtue consist in the words, and not in the bishop?

The Baptist Union commenced its sittings on Monday, when an address was delivered by Dr. Thomas, of Pontypool. Dr. Thomas referred in the first instance to the spiritual state of the Church, expressing a faithful regret at the increase of certain manifestations of worldliness. Next, what was called in the Establishment "lay co-operation," was dealt with, and the denomination was urged to make increased use of lay power. The question of National Education was next treated, and in the course of his observations Dr. Thomas very frankly stated that he stood on the old ground. We have reported the substance of his argument upon this point. The Union adopted a petition in favour of disestablishment, but the Baptists have always been the first to raise the flag of Religious Equality.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING, we remind our readers, will be held next Wednesday evening, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, under the presidency of Mr. Isaac Holden, of Bradford, who has not only been a consistent advocate of the society's principles among the Wesleyan body, of which he is an influential member, but who courageously fought for those principles at the recent Yorkshire election, in which he so nearly won the seat to which he was entitled. It will be seen from the advertisement elsewhere that among the speakers will be Mr. Dale, of Birmingham; Mr. Neville Goodman, of Cambridge; Dr. Landels, and the Rev. J. G. Rogers; and probably no speakers on the society's platform have ever had such a choice of topics of interest and importance, or have addressed a meeting at a more critical period in the history of the society's movement. This year the admission to the whole building will be by tickets, which may be freely had by the supporters of the society.

ORGANISATION IN LANCASHIRE.—In accordance with arrangements which have been under consideration for some time past, the representatives of the Liberation Society's local committees and subscribers in the various towns round Manchester met in that city on Friday afternoon to form a district council, for the purpose of securing combined action in that part of the country. There was a good attendance, which included Mr. Carvell Williams, who represented the London Committee, Mr. Hugh Mason, Dr. McKerrow, the Rev. Charles Williams, the Rev. Thomas Green, of Ashton, Mr. Kingsley, Alderman McKerrow, the Rev. Brook Herford, the Rev. J. McDougall, of Darwen, Mr. Nicholson, of Macclesfield, Mr. Reynier, of Ashton, the Rev. G. Reany, of Warrington, the Rev. W. C. Squier, of Stand, and the Rev. J. Macfadyen. There was some discussion on the question whether the proposed organisation should include the whole county, but it was ultimately decided that the title should be, "The Manchester District Council of the Liberation Society," and that it should include places within thirty miles of Manchester, whether within the county or not. It was agreed that it should consist of a chairman, deputy chairman, two secretaries, and fifty members, and half the members were at once chosen, authority being given to select the remainder, with regard to a complete representation of the district. Mr. Kearley, the late Lancashire district secretary, and Mr. Alexander, his successor, were present, and Dr. McKerrow expressed the sense of indebtedness which the society's friends felt to the late agent for his persistent and able exertions on its behalf, and also warmly welcomed Mr. Alexander to the sphere of labour on which he will shortly enter.

MEETING AT THE LANCASHIRE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE.—In accordance with the plan which the executive committee of the society have adopted during the present season, Mr. Carvell Williams, after the conference reported in the preceding paragraph, visited the students of the Lancashire Independent College at Whalley Range. His address on the present position of the disestablishment movement, with especial reference to the duties of Nonconformist ministers, was listened to with very marked attention and interest, and the frequent marks of approval which were elicited testified to the hearty sympathy of the students with the sentiments advanced. At the close, several inquiries were made as to the practical operations of the society, and the arguments by which the Church Establishment is now defended; and these having been replied to by Mr. Williams, Mr. G. Kearley added a few sentences on the religious aspect of the movement, and was followed by Mr. J. F. Alexander, the newly-appointed agent. The entire proceedings were of a very interesting character, and are likely to prove very beneficial also.

There has been a rather exciting controversy at Parkgate, Rotherham, where both the Establishment and the disestablishment parties have put forth considerable efforts. It may be remembered that, two or three weeks ago, a meeting was held here which was interrupted by some Establishment roughs. The vicar was there too, and challenged Mr. Fisher to meet Dr. Massingham. (Mr. Fisher engaged to meet that gentleman, but Dr. Massingham, it appears, never will meet any one who is ready to meet him, and so Mr. Fisher was precluded from that pleasure. Dr. Massingham lectured to a select audience admitted by ticket, with no controversy allowed, but only questions asked. Mr. Pine asked the rev. clergyman some, and we are informed, obtained nothing but evasive answers.

But the disestablishment party made up their minds that, as they were shut out from Dr. Massingham's lecture, they would have a meeting of their own at the same time. And a splendid meeting it seems to have been—of some 1,500 enthusiastic people, meeting in the open air, and allowing discussion in full. The *Rotherham Advertiser* says that a breach of the peace had been expected, but that the meeting was as orderly as could be. It was admirably addressed by the Rev. John Fisher, the Rev. G. S. Balmer, the Rev. A. J. Walkden, Mr. E. Cope, and the large gathering dispersed with three cheers for the Queen, and the same for religious equality.

It was determined, however, that matters should

not stop here, so on Wednesday last the Rev. Charles Williams lectured in reply to Dr. Massingham—Mr. Williams being one of the gentlemen whom Dr. Massingham will not meet. We are told there was a crowded attendance, and an enthusiastic spirit. Indeed, the enthusiasm was such as is seldom witnessed, Mr. Williams taking the greatest share. We have read his lecture as far as it is reported. It is full of point and humour, effective both in matter and in style, cutting up his opponent, but never, quick and slashing though this cutting may be, with loss of dignity. When Mr. Williams sat down, he had such an expression of "well done" as few persons can receive. Discussion was allowed, but none took place; but some good speeches, for local purposes, followed.

There has been a very stormy meeting at Bacup. There was one at Newchurch, in the neighbourhood, accompanied by a good deal of characteristic State-Church bullying. This time the Orangemen determined to get up another row, and issued the following bill:—

God save our Queen, our Altar, and our Cottage. To Churchmen and honest Protestants.—Stand to your guns, give nothing to those who preach in chapels, if they are by word or deed members of the Liberation Society. Let every man carefully watch the meeting at Bacup on Tuesday evening, and report all those who vote for disestablishment of the English Church, and let our watchword be, Let them keep themselves. These Liberation meetings mean political humbug, irreverent claptrap, and base hypocrisy. They mean money—they mean robbing and crushing all zealous and true Churchmen—they mean insult and outrage on the memory of the revered John Wesley.

As this meeting approached it became the subject of general discussion. In the evening "Rough Church supporters" came along in goodly contingents. The neighbourhood was crowded, but order was well preserved by the police. The Rev. Thomas Green, of Ashton, represented the Liberation Society, but before he appeared, the platform had been taken by storm; the Rev. J. J. Benyer, vicar of St. James's, Bolton, being amongst the stormers. Fists were next brought into requisition, and a free fight followed, which lasted about ten minutes. The proceedings were conducted in the midst of great tumult, but, we are informed, the Rev. T. Green gained a fair hearing by his "good humoured, chaffing style." The Revs. G. Crompton and S. F. Williams also spoke, and the promoters carried their resolution by a large majority, notwithstanding the disorder.

CHESTER has just completed a course of lectures on the Establishment; the last being delivered by Mr. Roberts, on the question whether disestablishment was likely to come from within, to which Mr. Roberts answered "No." The lecture bore marks of very careful preparation.

We have also to report, wishing we could do so at greater length, that the Rev. N. T. Langridge and Mr. Neville Goodman have visited Chelmsford and Colchester—the former town on Thursday and the latter on Friday last. The meetings, we understand, were good.

THE CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT IN RURAL PARISHES.

WE have received the following letter on this subject from the Rev. John M. Dolphin, of Coddington, Notts, in reply to the contents of our Supplement of the 19th inst.:

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—In common with many of my clerical brethren in rural parishes, I have read with deep interest the long catalogue of crimes and shortcomings charged against the Church Establishment in the Supplement of the *Nonconformist* of April 10. While admitting the candour with which the compiler acknowledges the "excellence and beneficence" of Church work in some places, I cannot but think that the picture as against the Establishment is considerably overdrawn. We of the clergy are very glad to have the weak points in our ministry exposed, and are not slow to admit, both in public and private, that "Dissenting influence" has in many cases proved "a great stimulus to Church exertion." But at the same time we very naturally object that a statement should go forth, without statistical proof from *unprejudiced witnesses*, to the effect that our ministry has failed utterly in those parts where it should have produced the most satisfactory results. And we would also wish to have it remembered that if there be worthless and immoral clergy in the ranks of the Establishment, there are, at least, as many such scandals amongst the ministers of Nonconformity, though from their itinerant habits they are less frequently noticed. The evils of Church patronage, on all sides allowed to be great, are at the present time under consideration, with a view, we may hope, to speedy amendment.

Admitting the justice of your remarks with reference to some of the above defects, we are prepared to show that your picture of the Establishment is a one-sided caricature.

Thus, e.g., an outsider, ignorant of the real facts of the case, would gather from your remarks that the majority of the clergy were idle drones, devoted to fox-hunting, and endowed with livings varying from 600*l.* to 2,000*l.* per annum. In the ugly-sounding contrast drawn between "much pay and little work," it is only fair to remember the literary labours which emanate from many of those small parishes which are held up to scorn. It is to the diligence of these country clergy that Nonconformist ministers are indebted for most of those theological works and devotional commentaries which are the glory of our land.

Fox-hunting parsons can scarcely be said to exist amongst the ranks of the rising generation of clergy, for the best of reasons—that, had they the inclination, they are too poor to maintain the horseflesh needful for such

recreation. The small value of livings, increasing in number every year, may be ascertained by any one who will consult the statistics of Queen Anne's Bounty or the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The number of claims sent annually from rural districts for augmentation (to the moderate figure of 250*l.* or 300*l.* per annum) would astonish those persons who write and speak as though every other benefice were of twice or three times that amount. In my own diocese, which includes the agricultural counties of Nottingham and Lincoln, there are but twelve parishes endowed with as much as 1,000*l.* per annum, the majority of these, having large populations, require the services of a curate. The number of the clergy for whom these prizes are available is nearly 1,100. This is probably a fair sample of the proportionate wealth of the Establishment throughout England. The generous support given to the "Benefice Augmentation Funds" now springing up in most dioceses is another proof of the inadequate value of the majority of even country livings. Where the population is small, and the endowment sufficient to provide a maintenance without resort to "taking pupils," it will frequently be found that the clergy are spending their spare energies in the general Church work of the diocese as inspectors of schools, special preachers, or secretaries of the various religious societies, to say nothing of the help which is gratuitously given by them to the hospitals, clubs, savings-banks, refuges, homes, penitentiaries, and other kindred institutions which have for their object the amelioration of the condition of the poor. It is not denied that Nonconformist ministers also lend a helping hand to these and similar charitable objects, but it is to the country clergy that Englishmen principally look for support in carrying out these Christian works.

Then again, it is unfair to assert that "home missionary work is contrary to the genius of a Church which divides the whole country into parishes, and gives a monopoly to the minister located in such parish," when two Church Societies, not to mention others—the *Pastoral Aid* and the *Curates' Aid*—maintain 1,000 curates in the manufacturing and mining districts of England and Wales, in addition to the 4,000 curates who are mainly maintained out of the endowments of the beneficed clergy for bringing home the Gospel to the scattered hamlets of our land. The lay "readers" acting under Episcopal licence, the parochial mission women, the Bible-women, the brotherhoods, and guilds, and Sisters of Mercy increasing in numbers from year to year, all go to prove that the Established Church does care for the souls of her people, as indeed your own report from the most rapidly increasing portion of England abundantly testifies. "The Established Church is very active in the erection of places of worship and schools on the banks of the Tyne and Wear." Surely her sons would hardly care to frequent such grimy districts save from the highest religious motives. Because, however, the Church pastor here as elsewhere works on quietly and unobtrusively in house-to-house visitation, and abstains from parading in the local newspaper his every effort for the good of Christ's flock, it is but too commonly reported and believed that "Methodists of various sections have done the chief part of the religious work." If the population of the rural districts were polled on the question, who are they that read and pray with the sick and the blind, and cheer the last days of declining age, I cannot doubt for one moment in whose favour the reply would be given. And yet we are to be accused of bribing over the consciences of the unlettered poor with our charities. Whereas the Wesleyan or Independent would never dream of admitting a Churchman to share in the benefits of his club or Christmas dole, it is a notorious fact that the majority of the clergy admit all alike without distinction of creed or belief, and in sickness and want relieve Dissenters with as open an hand as if they were members of his congregation.

One great advantage of an Endowed Church is that it gives an independent position to the minister, who need not flatter nor fear the frowns of his flock. Whilst the Nonconformist minister dares not, and commonly does not, enforce a high standard of morality from the pulpit, for fear of offending his chief supporters, the Church clergyman is unfettered in this respect, and from the consequent plainness of his rebukes, more than from almost any other cause, drives people over to Dissent, and yet, forsooth! he is to be blamed for bribery and corruption!

But worse than all, the country parson is accused of working his school as a "nursery of Church principles and a Church spirit." Of course he does. If faithful to his ordination vows, he must train up the young as much as the old in the doctrine and discipline of the Church Apostolic. Who ever heard of a Baptist or Wesleyan day-school training up its youth in any other than the tenets of its own narrow creed?

If, as is imputed, the rural schools have failed to elevate the rustic mind, it is not because the scholars have been kept so long under "priestly domination," but rather because they have been removed so early from the Church's care.

If there is no "sweetness" and no "light" distilled from the efforts of the rural clergy, how is it that the morals of a country village is so much lower where clerical non-residence has been the rule? And is there nothing to be said for the clergy wives and clergy daughters who are foremost in every civilising and ameliorating agency throughout the land? How else, I should like to know, will that training for the young men and maidens of England's poor for domestic service be provided if the loving, patient care, and all the sweetening influences of the country parsonage were swept away?

Are we all so worldly, so luxurious, so self-pleasing, that not a word is to be said of the homely Christian parsonage which is at once the envy and the admiration of every enlightened foreigner who travels through our midst?

If we do, forsooth! believe in our Divine commission and prefer our own form of worship, and the humble-mindedness of character to be seen in the sober Churchman to the more fervid and impassioned enthusiasm of the Nonconformist, we need not, surely, on that account be deemed intolerant or persecuting, and written down as 'idle, useless, cumberers of the ground, at a time when the clergy are as a body more true to their high calling than ever before.

Although our sermons be sometimes pronounced dull, and our speech pedantic, and our manner towards Nonconformists apparently, though not purposely, arrogant, this much, at least, a rival may honestly admit, that

the Establishment in rural parishes has bound together employer and employed, softened the troubles and miseries of life, kept up a knowledge of things spiritual amongst young and old, and been the great abettor of temperance, of providence, of education, of goodwill among men.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN M. DOLPHIN.
Coddington, Notts. April 18, 1872.

We have cheerfully given space to this letter, which is characterised by, at least, calmness and candour. Some of its points are beside the mark, as, for instance, the indebtedness of Nonconformist ministers to the country clergy for theological works; the real question being, whether the clergy have done all that they claim to have done for the rural population. Other statements of a general kind we are content to place by the side of the specific facts given in our Supplement, or to leave to the judgment of our readers. That "the Nonconformist minister dares not, and commonly does not, enforce a high standard of morality from the pulpit"—that "whereas the Wesleyan or Independent would never dream of admitting a Churchman to share in benefits of his club, or Christmas dole, it is a notorious fact that the majority of the clergy admit all alike, without distinction of creed or belief"—that, if the rural population were polled, their verdict would be in favour of our correspondent's views, and against our own, and that the Establishment has done all that he credits it with doing in the last sentence of his letter—these are positions the accuracy of which must be determined by evidence, and not by mere asseverations.

The writer's sensitiveness is both natural and commendable; but we hope he is mistaken in supposing that we have drawn "a one-sided caricature," calculated to produce the impression that "the majority of the clergy are idle drones, devoted to fox-hunting," richly endowed, and "worldly, luxurious and self-pleasing"; or that we have had no eye for the devotedness and philanthropy displayed by a large body of the clergy and their families. We had a strong desire to do justice, and, instead of making sweeping charges, adduced specific facts, and, as far as it seemed to be desirable, mentioned the particular parts of the country to which they related. Our critic forgets that we had, in our view, to deal with the "overdrawn pictures" of the supporters of the Establishment, who have affirmed that the Establishment has made our rural population religious, intelligent, virtuous, and happy, and that without it rural England would become a moral waste. We have endeavoured to show that such allegations are not justified by the actual circumstances of the case, and it by no means follows that, because we have exposed the incompetence and the failure of many of the Established clergy, we are blind to the existence of what is exemplary and beneficent. And let it be remembered also that Nonconformists have been provoked to these exposures by the ill-judged extravagance of the supporters of the Establishment, and that, if the existence of that institution is now to be staked on its assumed value to the rural, as distinguished from the urban, population, it is but reasonable that the facts should be the subject of an investigation the searching character of which is likely to prove most distasteful to Episcopalians.

Mr. Dolphin does us a wrong in supposing that we deem the clergy "intolerant and persecuting," merely because they prefer their own form of worship and seek to train people in the principles of their Church. If he means to contend that the particular acts which our correspondents have charged upon the clergy and their adherents are characterised by fairness and Christian feeling, and are in strict consistency with clerical duty, we shall waste no words in arguing the point with him.

There may be a seeming inconsistency between our correspondents' description of the efforts of such bodies as the *Pastoral* and *Curates' Aid* Societies and the employment of Bible-women, lay teachers, and similar agencies, and our own assertion that "home missionary work is contrary to the genius of a Church" which is based on the parochial principle. But are we wrong in asserting that the home missionary work of the Church is confined to parishes in which the incumbent is a concurring party? Does the law, or do the traditions of the Church, or clerical etiquette, allow a parish which is neglected by the legally appointed minister to be invaded by the adjacent clergy, or by the agents of the Church Societies, or, in fact, by any outside Christian agency? If these questions cannot be considered in the affirmative, then, we submit, that Mr. Dolphin's facts are irrelevant to the question, and the truth of our own allegation is not disproved.

We have never supposed, nor insinuated, that the great body of the Established clergy are overpaid,

and, if the number of small livings increases every year, it is a great misfortune for the Church of England that the existence of a comparatively small number of clerical incomes which are admitted to be excessive should produce the impression that the clergy generally are too highly remunerated. That, however, is one of the penalties which the Church pays for its established position. And Church patronage is another, and a still greater penalty, and if the evils which it inflicts are now allowed to be great, our correspondent must be reminded that these evils, though they have existed for centuries, have only lately been recognised; while he must also be told that, the amendment of Church patronage, if it be "speedy," must come as the result of disestablishment.

Who wishes to sweep away all "the sweetening influences of the country parsonage"? We have disavowed any such desire a hundred times; and if it be urged that that would be the effect of disestablishment, whether we desire it or not, we reply, briefly, we don't believe it! We doubt that Mr. Dolphin, or that the bulk of his clerical brethren, believe it. What we do believe is, that when Episcopalians are thrown upon their own resources, they will display a degree of evangelistic zeal, as well as liberality, which will change the face of many a country parish, and will leave none without some means of religious worship and instruction.

THE IRISH CHURCH SYNOD.

A long controversy has taken place in the General Synod of the Irish Church now sitting in Dublin as to whether clergymen in *deacon's* orders should be permitted in future to pronounce the "General Absolution." The primate and the bishops were against the proposed change, and when it was put to a two-thirds vote by orders the proposition was lost, the great majority of the clergy being opposed to it, and the great majority of the laity as decidedly in its favour. The numbers were: Ayes—clergy, 48; laymen, 109. Noes—clergy, 111; laymen, 46. This is regarded as a triumph for the party of Churchmen who are against innovations generally, and a balance to a certain extent for the expurgation of the Apocrypha from the daily lessons.

The synod has also discussed the education question. On a vote of orders a resolution was carried declaring that the synod "most strongly deprecates the introduction into Ireland of the system of education proposed by the Roman Catholic hierarchy to the Government."

The primate proposed to supplement the resolution adopted with a statement to this effect:—"We claim for our Protestant children the right to participate in the educational endowment of the State in every school to which the State contributes, with full protection to their religion, and with complete immunity from any teaching hostile to their creed; that which we claim for ourselves we hesitate not to concede to others." This was rejected, though a large party in the synod were in favour of the primate's declaration, which was substantially one in favour of the National Board. Among the speakers were Lord Ventry, Judge Longfield, Master Brooke, and the new Bishop of Cashel. The last named said he believed "the Government of the country had shown very little regard to the opinions of Irish Protestants and Irish Churchmen; but if at any future time either the present Government or some better Government came forward and asked the Irish Church to enter into a calm consideration of this question of Irish education, he was sure they would be all ready to consider it and to offer advice when necessary."

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS IN GERMANY AND FRANCE.

The archbishops and bishops assembled at Fulda have just issued a pastoral letter to the Catholic clergy of Prussia, in which they claim the power of inspection as a function pertaining to the Church, and enjoin its exercise as a duty. No power on earth, they say, can release them from the obligation of seeing to the Christian training of the young, and they are resolved to fulfil faithfully the duties of their office "towards the people's schools that have been forcibly separated from their mother the Church," so far as that is still possible. Accordingly the Fulda Conference of ecclesiastical authorities declare that every priest has charge of the local inspection of the schools in his parish, and that he ought not to resign his office, even when demands are made on him inconsistent with his priestly functions, without consultation with his bishop. Meantime the clergy are called upon to redouble their zeal in the religious instruction of the young, and not to weary in the great work of Christian education.

The spring conference of the Evangelical clergy assembled at Gnadauer have also issued a manifesto acknowledging the authority of the State in educational matters, but at the same time protesting against the separation of the school from the Church which, they say, is contained in principle in the late bill, and the effect of which will be "to withdraw

from our people one of the foundations on which they have grown up as a Christian people." The Evangelical clergy declare themselves willing to continue discharging the task of school-inspection as before, and express the hope that the State will impose on them no obligation in connection therewith that would bring them into conflict with their pastoral office and their Church confession of faith.

The German Minister of Public Worship has addressed a letter to the Bishop of Ermeland on the subject of the recent excommunications of Old Catholics, pointing out that excommunication is not purely an ecclesiastical punishment, but likewise derives a civil significance from the persons excommunicated being outlawed in social relations. According to the law the punishment can, therefore, not be inflicted by the sole action of the ecclesiastical authorities, but only after the sanction of the Government has been obtained. The Minister therefore calls upon the bishop to prevent the conflict which thus arises between the civil effects of excommunication and the spirit of the laws of the land. In case of non-compliance, Government will be compelled to consider the recognition of the bishop by the State as void, and will not be able to maintain the relations hitherto existing between the Roman Catholic Church and the State. The Bishop of Ermeland, in his reply to the Minister, endeavours at great length to prove that by the publication of the excommunication no detriment has been inflicted upon the civil rank of the persons excommunicated.

A story comes to us from Cologne to the effect that on Holy Thursday the father of Professor Langen in Bonn presented himself at the Cologne Cathedral for the Holy Communion, and was thus addressed by the officiant:—"Pastor Halm has asked me not to give you Communion: take yourself away from here." This man has lived between forty and fifty years in the Cathedral parish,—has not only not been excommunicated, but has always shown himself a devout and ardent Catholic: his sole offence was that he was the father of an excommunicated Professor.

The Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—

Monsignor Guilbert, Archbishop of Paris, taking the bull by the horns, has just addressed a *mandement* to the clergy of his diocese, which is nothing more nor less than the promulgation of the dogma of infallibility and other decisions of the Vatican. The publication of the decrees of the Vatican constitutes a violation of the articles of the organic law of the eighteenth Germinal, year X., which lays down that "no bulls, briefs, rescripts, or other 'expeditions' from the Court of Rome, decrees of foreign synods, even those of general councils," can be received, published, and printed in France without the authorisation of the Government." While the press was engaged in discussing whether the Concordat was a dead letter, and if there no longer existed any necessity for a legal acceptance of the decrees of the Vatican, the question was suddenly decided by the Archbishop of Paris, who showed that he required no aid from the civil authorities in promulgating dogmas. It will be remembered that a few years ago Monsignor Pie, Bishop of Poitiers, took the liberty of promulgating an encyclical in his diocese, but for so doing he was censured by the Council of State. The law has not been altered since then, though M. Thiers is perhaps a better son of the Church than Napoleon III. It is supposed that the Archbishop of Paris has been assured of immunity, and, in fact, the Government and the people opposed to the pretensions of the Church have too much important matter on hand, and there are too many subjects of division in the country, for any one to desire a religious controversy. The decree recognising the dogma of infallibility is followed by a letter of adhesion by Monsignor Darboy, who, shortly before he was seized by the Commune, wrote to the Pope accepting the dogma which he had at first rejected. The *mandement* of Monsignor Guilbert is very cleverly written, and was evidently composed for the purpose of attenuating as much as possible the importance of the new dogma.

The Abbé Junqua has been condemned by the Correctional Tribunal of Bordeaux to six months' imprisonment for persisting in wearing his gown after the injunction of Cardinal Donnet. The civil power, according to the Concordat and the organic laws, had not to examine the motives which induced the Archbishop of Bordeaux to unfrock the Abbé, but had merely to punish him for an act of disobedience to his spiritual superior. Maître Mie, who defended the accused, having expressed his astonishment that the Archbishop of Bordeaux should have interfered directly in this affair, the Republican prosecutor replied:—"I beg pardon, Maître Mie, I took the initiative to this extent, that if the archbishop had not pronounced the interdiction I should have expressed my surprise. It was I who told M. Boutarel to summon Junqua. It was I who directed M. Boutarel to show Junqua an order he pretended not to be aware of," &c. This seems a curious piece of interference on the Republican prosecutor, which will not be grateful to Republicans. As for the Abbé Junqua himself, he insisted that it was not he but Cardinal Donnet who was guilty of want of discipline. The decision of M. Jules Simon is looked forward to with some interest.—*Paris correspondent of Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE BURIALS BILL.—Mr. Osborne Morgan's bill stood second in the orders on Wednesday last, when it was hoped that progress might have been made with the clauses in committee; but the debate on the Spirituous Liquors Bill occupied the whole of the sitting. It now stands for Friday evening, the 3rd of May, but it will depend upon the time occupied by motions on going into committee of supply

whether it will be reached early enough for any practical purpose. We think it right to call attention to the fact, that the friends of the bill have not yet supported it by petitions as they might have been expected to do, considering the activity in petitioning displayed on the other side, and the declared intention of the leader of the Opposition to exert his utmost influence against the measure. The last report of the Petitions' Committee shows that, up to the 16th inst., 677 petitions, with 30,965 signatures, had been presented against the bill—all of them emanating from small places, many of them having but a small number of signatures attached. In support of the bill there had been presented but 132 petitions, with 14,454. Since then, however, the petitions on that side have come in in much greater numbers; but the delay in the further discussion of the bill affords an opportunity for further petitioning, which ought to be diligently used by those who do not wish it to be supposed that there is not a strong feeling in favour of the bill.

Archbishop Manning has forbidden the employment of female vocalists in Roman Catholic churches under his jurisdiction after September next.

An authorised report of the proceedings of the late Conference of Nonconformists at Manchester is issued in a bulky pamphlet of more than three hundred pages, published by Messrs. Ireland, of Manchester, and Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, of London.

All the Nonconformist places of worship in Okehampton were closed on Sunday week out of respect to the memory of the late vicar (Archdeacon Downall), and in order that the congregations might attend the parish church, where funeral sermons were preached.

UNION OF CITY BENEFICES.—At Thursday's Court of Common Council the appointment of commissioners to assist at the union of several City benefices gave rise to a discussion, in which some strong censures were passed as to the manner in which these conglomerations were carried out.

SPANISH PROTESTANTISM.—The second synod of the Spanish Protestant churches which assembled in Madrid terminated its labours on Friday. Nineteen churches were represented belonging to the Presbyterian denomination, and a consistory was elected for a year, viz., until April, 1873. A profession of faith, rules for the government of the Church, and a catechism, were approved.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNION.—At a meeting of the Cambridge Union Society held on Wednesday, April 24, it was moved, "That the present system of compulsory chapels is unsatisfactory." The motion was carried by fifty-seven votes to fifteen; majority, 42. Six members spoke in support of the motion; two against it. Two of the speakers were Nonconformists.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIANS.—The "Sustentation Committee" of the Presbyterian body in Ireland have been able to declare a dividend for each of their ministers for this year of 85*l.* 53*s.* 2*d.* ministers receive from the fund. The plan adopted was first to guarantee to each the old Regium Donum 69*l.*, and to add to it a supplemental dividend as the yearly subscriptions warranted. The supplemental dividend consequently is for 1872, 16*l.*

THE REV. W. J. E. BENNETT AND THE "RESERVED SACRAMENT."—The Vicar of Frome, a correspondent informs us (*Record*), has recently introduced another innovation in the services at Frome parish church by caricaturing the practice of the Romish Church in the "reservation of the sacrament." In his evidence before the Ritual Commissioners, Mr. Bennett stated that he considered the reservation of the sacrament distinctly prohibited by the English Church; and yet an attendant at Frome Church on Good Friday could not fail to observe that the clergy and choir as they entered their places made not the usual bow to the altar, but a real genuflection towards the altar in St. Andrew's Chapel, on which there was a reserved sacrament from the Thursday in Passion Week till Easter Day, with perpetual adoration—that is, some one or more continually kneeling in adoration during the whole of the time that the sacrament was exposed on the altar.

BISHOP TEMPLE ON THE CHURCH AND NONCONFORMITY.—The announcement by the Bishop of Exeter that he would conclude his visitation on Saturday at Liskeard by an address on the connection of Church and State, and the relation of the Church to Nonconformity, excited much interest, Dr. Temple having never explicitly declared himself on this since his elevation to the bishopric, and having refrained from countenancing the Church Defence Institution. He remarked that all institutions were now on trial, and must stand or fall according as their utility was proved or not, and to this the Church Establishment was no exception. The Church must possess within itself the power of reforming abuses and remodelling her machinery to suit the times. Nonconformists were the Church's greatest difficulty; but Dissenters were Englishmen, and surely might be recognised as belonging to the English Church without sacrificing their freedom of opinion or their peculiar organisation. Nonconformists should be treated as a brotherhood within the Church, doing work in common for their common Master. Some Dissenters possibly could not be thus recognised, others probably would decline to accept such an offer to come within the

fold, but the attempt should be made, for if not made the Church would lose its place as a national establishment, and lose it by her own fault. The great value of the work done by Dissenters could not be denied, and they should be regarded as friends with whom to work, while differing in minor matters, rather than as enemies with whom to fight. If Nonconformists were included, Church establishment had a high mission, which should not lightly be disregarded. This charge, it is said, produced something akin to sensation among the clergy to whom it was addressed.

Religious and Denominational News.

COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS.

HAMPSHIRE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

The spring meetings of this association were held on Tuesday and Wednesday week at Lymington. There was first a tea and public meeting, presided over by Mr. J. Kemp-Welch, at which a report was read by Mr. TRIPPE, of Southampton, relative to the Sunday School Union of the district. The Rev. F. BEVERIDGE having proposed, and the Rev. Mr. JONES seconded, that the report be received and adopted, the CHAIRMAN expressed his conviction that the work of Sunday-schools, however great and good, had not been altogether so satisfactory as it ought to be. He thought that now, of all times, it was necessary the scholars should be well instructed in the principles of Nonconformity, and he believed that children well taught in those principles would be likely to become better, not worse, Christians for such knowledge. Much falsehood was now being taught in the country—ritualism, baptismal regeneration, and the pretensions of the priestly party had to be struggled with in order that the young might be led to trust only on the one great and effectual High Priest set before them in the Gospel. He was opposed to the denominational clause in the Education Act, which had waked up Dissenters to the evil it would certainly bring upon the country. He was for national secular education, but neither he nor those he represented were guilty of the reproach laid to their charge by a titled speaker, who had accused them of calling religion a *foul* thing. No persons in the land had a higher respect for religion, or valued their Bibles more than Nonconformists. When he reflected on the unworthy influences brought to bear on Nonconformists in the South of England—the bribery used, either in money or money's worth, to induce the attendance of the young in certain schools—of the array of lords, ladies, squires, rectors, and curates against them—he thought it was wonderful they held their ground so well. The Rev. W. JELLIE, of Portsea, read a paper, for discussion, entitled, "A Church for our Scholars, or our Scholars in the Church." The subject appeared to have arisen from a scheme carried out in Halifax by the Rev. Mr. Gray, who has formed in his Sunday-schools a distinctive church of those among the scholars who, though leading a pious life, are not thought old enough for the privileges of full membership in the regularly organised body. The speaker rather opposed the plan on the ground that on the whole it would have an injurious effect upon the church as at present constituted, as well as upon the young people themselves. He, however, forcibly pointed out that some change is necessary in the mode of working Sunday-schools, so as to prevent the loss both to schools and churches of those who become too old for the classes. Other topics, revealing defects in the present organisation, were dealt with in the paper. The discussion which followed its reading was taken part in by Mr. Aldridge, of Christchurch; Rev. R. A. Davies, of Ventnor; Rev. H. H. Carlisle, of Southampton; Rev. W. Robertson, of Romsey; and Mr. Jukes, of Portsea. The tendency of their remarks was to the effect that whilst the adoption of a juvenile church was not approved of on Scriptural and other grounds, there was a widely extended wish to admit young people as communicants, and, after due probation, to the full privileges of church-membership. The business of the union was entered upon on Wednesday, when the Rev. T. Poole, the chairman, read a paper on "Our Prospects in relation to Church Life, Worship, and Work." On the proposition of the Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER, seconded by the Rev. G. A. COLTART, of Ryde, a cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the Rev. Mr. POOLE for his address. The report of the sub-committee with reference to the Evangelistic Fund was postponed, and after some business with respect to local cases, Mr. W. B. RANDALL, of Southampton, as chairman of a committee (consisting of himself, the Revs. H. Carlisle, and S. March, Mr. T. G. Dowman, and Mr. W. Johnson), appointed to consider the subject of "Church Reference Councils," brought up and proposed that the union receive their report and adopt their scheme founded on one which appears to be working most successfully in America. The details of the plan were fully discussed, but eventually the report was adopted as presented. Mr. MOSER brought up the report of the committee appointed to consider the desirability of forming a building loan fund for the union, recommending the adoption of the principle, and suggesting certain details both as to lenders and borrowers of money. After some discussion, the matter was deferred to a subsequent meeting. The friends then adjourned to the schoolroom to dinner, the Rev. T. Poole in the chair. Speeches were made by several ministers and gentlemen, including the Rev. W.

ROBINSON (Wesleyan), who said he was a thorough Nonconformist and Dissenter, and opposed to the Education Act, especially the 25th clause. In the evening, the Rev. S. March, of Southampton, preached, followed by a celebration of the Communion.

SOUTH DEVON CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

The annual meetings of the South Devon Congregational Union, which has for its object the extension of evangelistic work throughout the district, were held on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday, the 15th inst., there was a conference of ministers at the Sherwell Chapel Schoolroom, Plymouth.

On Tuesday, the usual morning sitting of ministers and delegates was held, under the presidency of Alexander Hubbard, Esq. In the course of the proceedings, the following resolution on the educational policy of the Government was unanimously passed:—

That the ministers and delegates of the South Devon Congregational Union, convened in annual assembly, desire to express their deep regret and alarm at the recent utterances of members of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of national education, indicating, it is feared, a willingness and intention on the part of Ministers to apply to its fullest extent the vicious principle of concurrent endowment in carrying out the various schemes of education now in operation or in prospect for the United Kingdom. That this assembly is of opinion that such action on the part of the Government must inevitably lead to serious discontent and opposition; being regarded by large numbers of the people as a flagrant infringement of the principle of religious liberty, by which no man is to be required to contribute towards the propagation of religious opinions to which he conscientiously objects as contrary to what he believes to be true. That this assembly therefore feels that it is necessary to urge upon all members of the churches and congregations of this union the duty of opposing to the utmost, and by the use of all lawful means, a policy which is retrograde in principle, mischievous in practice, and wholly opposed to the traditions of the Nonconformist Churches of England.

Petitions were also numerously signed in favour of Mr. Candlish's bill for the repeal of the 25th clause of the Elementary Education Act (1870), and in support of Mr. Osborne Morgan's bill to amend the burial laws. In the evening a public meeting was held in Sherwell Chapel, Mr. Alfred Rooker presiding. There were also on the platform the Revs. Charles Wilson, M.A., W. Stewart (Kingsbridge), J. Tucker (Moretonhampstead), J. Sellicks (Newton), and the Rev. W. Garrett Horder, of Torquay. The CHAIRMAN said:—

They could look back on the past and say that up to the present time there had been progress, and that the work which was done, though not so large and extensive as it might be, was still, they believed, a very important one. He wished specially to direct their attention to one fact, that from the very nature of the population of the county, which was of an agricultural character, what were villages were still villages, and what were towns were towns, there was not that accession of population from some of the large centres as was the case in the more Northern counties. That implied that the work they had to do was not a work from which they could discharge themselves, and they had not the same hope persons might have in some places that the small congregations would increase as the population gathered round them. That rendered it more necessary that the work they had undertaken should be a constant and untiring work. He imagined that they could express their conviction that the forms of religious belief in relation to Church Government which they entertained were worthy of being extensively made known in the districts around them. He did not mean for a moment that the object of the associations was to extend Dissent as Dissent or Congregationalism as Congregationalism, but they did believe that if their views were worth anything, that the opinions they held as Congregationalists with regard to church government were opinions derived from Scripture, and were purely Scriptural. When they heard some glorying in their apostasy of apostolic succession, they could glory in the freedom of their Congregational church work, and glory in the congregation of numbers of earnest and faithful men in the constitution of their Congregational churches that would tend under favourable conditions to be advantageous to the rapid extension of religious truth throughout the country. They thought that their form of church government should be tried, not by any logical process, but by its results. If they found that their Congregationalism had in itself a principle of extension, like seed scattered in fruitful ground, which took its own independent life, if there was any independent life, then they did believe that the forms of their Church organisation were not unimportant, and had intrinsic and real value. They believed that the principles they possessed were for the well-being of society in its social relationship. But, after all, those were secondary objects. He did not think that it was simply to extend Congregationalism, or any principles that they held in conjunction with Congregationalism, and for that alone, they instituted such societies as those. Their main object was to go forth and spread the Gospel throughout the entire districts of the country, and wherever there was ignorance and darkness and want of Divine truth to carry the lamp of truth, so that its light might be extended all around. The Church was not worth anything if it was not aggressive. There could be no such a thing as a religious life deepening in their hearts which was only simply mystical. There was a necessity for work in the country districts, and the need of the work had been clearly shown in the reports which had been presented to them.

The Rev. CHARLES WILSON, M.A., in explaining the objects of the association, said that in the first place they rendered help to feeble churches. In South Devon from the smallness of the towns the churches were not strong and scarcely able to sustain their own pastors, and the stronger churches therefore came forward to bear a portion of the infirmities of the weak and supplement the income of the pastors of the small parishes so that they may live in comfort. In the second place there was the maintenance of village stations. There was the evangelistic work. In South Devon that work was only ten years old, but its results had

been most gratifying, and a blessing to the country districts. The blessing had not been lost to their own churches, for it had called forth an increased liberality. During the eleven years this evangelistic work had been in existence the income had risen from 281*l.* to 503*l.* They had four evangelists engaged in South Devon during the past year, and from their reports they found that 8,000 visits had been made, and 730 visits to the sick, besides the distribution of 7,000 tracts. It was a matter of congratulation that they had such a society to do such an important and necessary work.

The Rev. Mr. STEWART, of Kingsbridge, in an excellent speech, called attention to the importance of the association, and regretted that the villages of Devon were so much neglected, in fact, like the outlying districts in the heathen world. He could not speak much from experience of the religious condition of the people in the villages in Devon; but he had seen a great deal of the people in the rural parishes of the midlands, more especially in Leicestershire. He stood aghast at the brutal ignorance in which he found the great masses of the people in that part. Some of the houses were unworthy of being designated by that name. The Rev. Mr. TUCKER, of Moretonhampstead, made a powerful appeal in behalf of the union. The Rev. J. SELICKS, of Newton, said that a great deal of the success of the association depended upon the earnestness and zeal which they evinced in the matter, and considered that there was much to encourage them to go on in the work in the future.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

The annual meeting of the Durham and Northumberland Association of Congregational Ministers and Churches was held at Sunderland on Easter Monday and Tuesday. An impressive sermon was preached in Fawcett-street Chapel on Monday evening, by the Rev. W. M. Statham, of Hull. The business meeting took place in the lecture-room of the same chapel on Tuesday morning, under the presidency of the Rev. S. Goodall, of Durham, who as chairman for the year delivered a very admirable address. It dealt with the various causes of weakness in Congregational churches, and suggested suitable remedies, showing that the great need of the churches is "power from on high." The report for the year was read by the secretary, the Rev. W. Shillito, and the financial account by the treasurer, Mr. A. Common. Grants were voted to churches and mission stations amounting to 520*l.* The consideration of the proposal to make all the pastors of the association life members of the Pastors' Retiring Fund was remitted to the general committee. Resolutions were adopted in favour of international arbitration, and of the proposed repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. A resolution was also adopted against the Scotch Education Bill, as, in its present shape, violating the principles of religious equality. The thanks of the association were awarded to Mr. E. Miall, M.P., for his services to the cause of religious liberty, and the churches were earnestly recommended to strengthen his hands by petitions and all other methods, in support of the motion which he is about to bring before the House of Commons. Mr. H. Vincent, who was present, spoke in support of it. The attendance of ministers and delegates was large, and the report of progress in most of the mission stations was satisfactory and encouraging.

PEMBROKESHIRE WELSH AND ENGLISH.

A united meeting of the Welsh and English Congregational Associations of Pembrokeshire has recently been held at Templeton, near Narberth. A large number of ministers and delegates from the associated churches assembled on the occasion. Resolutions were adopted relating to the liquidation of chapel debt, to home missionary operations, and to the work of promoting religion, more especially in the English district of the county. W. Trewent, Esq., of Pembroke, treasurer of the English Association, said that the Rev. H. C. Long had resigned his pastorate of the Church at the Tabernacle of Haverfordwest, which he had honourably held during the last eight years. He proposed for their adoption—"That this meeting deeply regrets the great loss the South Pembrokeshire Congregational Association is about to sustain in the removal of the Rev. H. C. Long from Haverfordwest. His ministerial and Christian brethren present hereby testify to the cordial affection entertained for him, and the high esteem in which he is held as a man of God and a faithful and able minister of Jesus Christ; and to their high appreciation of the warm sympathy, wise counsel, and helpful co-operation afforded by his long services. They moreover commend him to the care of the Great Shepherd, as also to the sympathy and confidence of ministerial brethren with whom he may in future be associated, and fervently pray that he may be abundantly happy and prosperous in his future sphere." The Rev. E. Thomas, secretary, seconded, and the Rev. C. Gwion, of Milford, supported the motion. The Rev. S. Evans, secretary to the Welsh Association, also bore testimony to Mr. Long's valuable services. The resolution was cordially adopted. Sermons were preached in the chapel at Templeton and in various chapels in the neighbourhood, in both the Welsh and English languages.

The Rev. Joseph Williams has resigned the pastorate of the Collegiate College, Leicester.

URTON CHAPEL, LAMBETH-ROAD.—A recognition service in connection with the settlement of the

Rev. John Roberts as pastor of the above church was held on Wednesday evening, April 17. Mr. Cox, senior deacon, presided, and the following ministers took part in the proceedings:—The Revs. C. Bailhache, R. Berry, G. D. Evans, G. Hearson, J. Owen, R. A. Jones, A. Mursell, G. M. Murphy, R. H. McCulloch, and T. Roberts, B.A.

UPPERMILL, MANCHESTER.—A bazaar in aid of the erection of a Congregational Chapel, Uppermill, Manchester, was held in the Mechanics' Institution, April 11th, 12th, and 13th, and the handsome sum of 830*l.* was realised. The proposed new structure is being built on the site occupied by the old chapel previous to its removal. The style of the building now in course of erection is mixed. It is calculated that the cost will be 2,000*l.*, exclusive of the old material, which can be adapted to the new structure, and of the cost of land, which is the property of the chapel trustees. The pastor is the Rev. W. Burrows, B.A., and he has the prospect of seeing the new chapel opened free from debt; and handsome new schools have been built during his pastorate of eleven years.

SEDBERGH.—The Congregational chapel, Sedburgh, was reopened on Sunday, the 14th inst., when two impressive discourses were delivered by the Rev. J. G. Miall, of Bradford. On Monday a tea-meeting was held, when upwards of 300 sat down. The public meeting was presided over by the Rev. R. Pool, pastor. Congratulatory addresses to the pastor and church were given by the Revs. J. G. Miall, Taylor, Dyson, Fayers, Lambert, Moister, Hargreaves, and Nicholls, Messrs. Byles, Glyde, and Alderman Brown. The entire cost of the chapel and organ is about 1,000*l.*, 700*l.* of which has already been given, and it is hoped that the remaining debt of 300*l.* will be cleared off during the next twelve months.

THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPANY OF REVISERS concluded on Friday their nineteenth season. The company assembled in the Deanery, Westminster, their usual place of meeting, the Jerusalem Chamber, being occupied by the Old Testament Company. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presided, as usual. The other members of the company present were—The Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop of St. Andrews, the Dean of Rochester, the Dean of Westminster, Canon Blakesley, Canon Kennedy, Canon Lightfoot, Canon Westcott, Archdeacon Bickersteth, Archdeacon Lee, the Master of the Temple, Professor Eadie, Professor Milligan, Professor Newth, Dr. Angus, Dr. Scrivener, Dr. Brown, Mr. Hort, and Mr. Humphry. The first and provisional revision of the Gospels has now reached the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke.

GATESHEAD.—The foundation-stone of the Gateshead Congregational Chapel was laid on Wednesday, the 10th of April, by Joseph Mather, Esq., of Newcastle. Devotional exercises were conducted, in which the Revs. A. Reid, H. T. Robjohns, A. Griffiths, J. A. Rutherford, of Newcastle, and other ministers, engaged. The Rev. J. Ketley, the minister, gave an address explanatory of the circumstances under which the erection of the chapel took place. The Rev. A. Norris, of Tynemouth, gave an address on the principles of Congregationalism. Offerings towards the building were laid upon the stone, amounting to upwards of 300*l.* In the evening a *soirée* was held in the Town-hall, and there was a public meeting after it, presided over by Henry Taylor, Esq., of Morpeth. The site of the chapel is a very eligible one in a rapidly increasing part of the borough, and the chapel itself will be a very handsome and commodious structure.

BAYSWATER.—On Monday evening, April 15, a very interesting meeting was held in the schoolroom, Westbourne-grove Chapel, Bayswater, to celebrate the completion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the settlement of the Rev. W. G. Lewis as the pastor of the church. After tea and coffee had been served, the chair was taken by John Marshman, Esq., who, in the name of the church and congregation, presented the pastor with a portemonnaie containing three hundred sovereigns, and also with an address engrossed on vellum, beautifully illuminated, and mounted in gilt frame. The Rev. D. Katterns, of Hackney, president of the London Baptist Association, then addressed the meeting, and was followed by Mr. G. Fenn, the senior deacon. A handsome timepiece, with a suitable inscription on a silver plate, was exhibited, being a testimonial to the pastor from the teachers and scholars of the Sunday-school presented on the preceding day.

THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—This synod held its concluding meeting in London on Friday. Professor Leone Levi submitted a report on statistics. It stated there were 132 congregations with a membership of 2,500, and that the total sum raised last year was about 70,000*l.* The average rate of stipends in the English Presbyterian Church was 224*l.*, and that of the U.P. Church was 180*l.* He estimated that the number of Presbyterian members in Great Britain, exclusive of those in Wales, was 600,000; and that the Methodists numbered 500,000, and the Congregationalists, 500,800. On the motion of Professor Levi, it was resolved to petition Parliament and the Government in favour of international arbitration with a view to obviate war. It was also resolved to commence the working of the new sustentation plan for the support of ministers so as to secure a minimum stipend of 150*l.* to all on the 1st of January, 1873, instead of 1874. It was also resolved to appoint a paid secretary.

BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—A numerously-attended meeting of the clergy and churchwardens;

of the diocese of London was held on Tuesday in Sion College, in support of the Bishop of London's Fund. In opening the proceedings the bishop stated that, up to the present time, 435,143l. had been paid or promised; and as the new contributions alone amounted last year to 22,576l., it was probable that the remaining 65,857l. would in the course of the present and next year be subscribed. By means of the fund many new churches had been supplied; seventy-six had been consecrated in the diocese of London during the last eight years, and seventy-four new parishes had been formed and endowed. The fund had also contributed towards the erection of thirty-eight parsonages, and provided sites for several others. It had supplied grants to more than 100 schools, and provided and maintained thirty mission buildings, nearly 100,000l. having been expended on the support of a large staff of clergy, Scripture-readers, and parochial mission-women. Resolutions providing for the extension of the fund were adopted.

CONGREGATIONALISM IN THE NORTH.—*Appropos* of a recent controversy as to the position of Dissenting churches, the Rev. H. T. Robjohns has published some statistics in reference to Congregationalism in Durham and Northumberland. In 1867, there were in these two counties thirty-three churches and sixteen preaching stations. In 1871, that is in four years, the Congregationalists had forty-one churches and thirty-two preaching stations. Among the new churches are Gateshead, Blyth, Jarrow, Tynemouth, and Tyne Dock. During the last four years, the Congregationalists have built the following new chapels: Blyth, Hexham, Tynemouth, Jarrow, Fulwell, and Staindrop; and are now building new chapels at Gateshead and Acomb. Besides this, new schoolrooms have been built in connection with Hexham, Blyth, St. Paul's (Newcastle), Fawcett-street (Sunderland), and Bath-lane (Newcastle). Several heavy and oppressive debts—one of 1,350l. for example, on West Clayton-street, Newcastle—have been cleared, and churches, long depressed, are at work, and succeeding in all the joys of a great emancipation. These facts, valuable in themselves, are yet more valuable from the spiritual life which they most surely indicate. About five years ago the association raised, in order to help weak churches, and found fresh missions, scarcely 200l. a year; it now raises more than 500l. a year. Mr. Robjohns adds that he has no doubt some other parts of the country could even give a better account of themselves.

HANWELL.—Union Church anniversary was held last Tuesday, when the Rev. G. Rouse Lowden, presided over an early devotional meeting very well attended. The Rev. Arthur Mursell preached an eloquent sermon in the afternoon upon "Not Removing the Ancient Landmarks," and in the evening the Rev. Dr. Parker, of Poultry Chapel, delivered a powerful sermon upon "Zacchæus." A large number of friends partook of tea in the schoolroom. The services were resumed on the following Sunday, when the Rev. T. Henson preached.

NOTTINGHAM.—Special services have been held during the past week, to celebrate the extinction of the debt of 1,000l. from the chapel and schools connected with St. James's Chapel in this town, and to commemorate the settlement of the Rev. J. Morley Wright three years ago. The Rev. A. M'Millan, of Craven-hill Congregational Church, London, preached on Lord's-day, April 14, to large congregations, and an unusual feature of the services was that there were no collections, none being required. On April 15 a public tea-meeting was held in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall, when addresses were delivered by the Revs. A. M'Millan, W. R. Stevenson, M.A. (Baptist), C. Clemance, B.A., and other ministers and friends. The financial statement showed a balance in hand, after payment of 1,025l. debt and expenses, of 243l. On Thursday, April 18, the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., preached afternoon and evening. Collections were made on behalf of the new chapel about to be built in the Meadows, Nottingham, and the church to be erected in the place of Surrey Chapel, London. Mr. Hall also preached, and a collection was made, at Castle Gate Chapel on the following evening. The united collections amounted to 67l.

HOLYWELL GREEN (STAINLAND) NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The ceremony of laying the memorial-stones of the new Congregational Church at Holywell Green, Stainland, near Halifax (built at the expense of Messrs. Shaw and Sons, Brockroyd Mills), was performed on Wednesday afternoon by Master John Edward Shaw, aged fifteen years, son of Mr. Samuel Shaw, of Brooklands, and Master William Rawson Shaw, aged eleven years, son of Mr. Thomas Shaw, of Allangate, to each of whom was presented a silver trowel by the Rev. B. Wilkinson, on behalf of the church and congregation. Mr. Samuel Shaw gave a history of the Congregational cause in Stainland, and an address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Mellor. The new church will cost about 6,000l.; the architect being Mr. J. P. Pritchett, of Darlington. In the evening the recognition service in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Benjamin Wilkinson (late of Norton-in-Craven) as pastor of the church took place in the Mechanics' Hall, Holywell Green (erected at the expense of Mr. S. Shaw), when there was a crowded audience, the chair being occupied by Mr. John Crossley, of Manor Heath, Halifax.

CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL-HALL.—The Congregational Memorial Hall and Library have arranged to lay the foundation stone on the afternoon of Friday, the 18th of May, the second day of the

meetings of the Congregational Union. We understand that the stone will be laid by J. R. Mills, Esq., that the Rev. Thos. Binney will offer the dedication prayers, and that the Rev. W. Halley, Principal of New College, will deliver an address suitable to the occasion. It is expected that Mr. Samuel Thorley, M.P., and, if time permit, some other brethren, will also say something appropriate to the occasion. The site of the hall is in Farringdon-street—a most central and convenient locality—and will comprise a frontage of eighty-four feet, with a depth of nearly 100 feet, and will have access also from Fleet-lane. The design, by Mr. Tarring, is Gothic, and includes something of the old baronial style, so as to adapt it to the time to which the commemoration of the expulsion of 2,000 clergymen for fidelity to conscience in 1662. There will be a public hall capable of accommodating from 12,000 to 15,000 persons; a library to hold 300, well supplied with books; a board room for general use, and twenty-seven other rooms, which will be used as offices by the societies in London connected with the denomination. There will be a large cellarage, fire-proof rooms, and every needful accommodation for public and conference meetings. The cost of the site is 28,000l.; the property is freehold, and the building will cost 30,000l. more. The site is paid for, and there is a large proportion of the sum necessary to pay for the hall and offices available, but further subscriptions will be required, so as to open the building free of debt. The *conversations* in Cannon-street Hotel, in the evening, will be addressed by several ministers and gentlemen with special reference to this important undertaking. The property is to be invested in trustees, chosen by the subscribers, and for the purposes of the denomination.

MR. SPURGEON'S COLLEGE.—On Tuesday a considerable gathering took place at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, to hear from Mr. Spurgeon an account of the year's work in connection with the college which he instituted and is vigorously carrying on for the education of young Baptist ministers. The pleasure of the gathering is not diminished by the kindly liberality of one of the members—Mr. Phillips—who provides tea and supper for the ministers and friends who attend on the occasion. After some hundreds of ladies and gentlemen had partaken of the first meal, a meeting was held in the chapel, presided over by Mr. George Hanbury. Mr. Spurgeon, who was the principal speaker of the evening, gave an interesting account of the origin of the college, which commenced in a determination on his part to afford the advantages of education for the ministry, in 1856, to one of several zealous young men whose preaching in the streets had been "blessed of God to the conversion of souls." From one the number was increased to eight, then to twenty, fifty, and at last to nearly a hundred, who are supported, by the liberality of Mr. Spurgeon's friends and admirers, during their course of instruction. By taking none but "those whom God had evidently called to preach the Gospel"—that is to say, young men of natural zeal and eloquence—the working of the college has been most successful in imbuving numerous young men every year with those old Calvinistic evangelical doctrines which make acceptable ministers (not only to Baptists here, but to congregations in Scotland and to the Presbyterian churches of Rotterdam and Amsterdam. Mr. Spurgeon, in his genial and interesting address, gave a list of fifteen students of the college who have been settled as ministers during the year, and a similar number of new chapels added to the Baptist congregations of the country during the year. Between seventy and eighty students have been studying during the past year, and the want of suitable buildings for the purpose is now so severely felt that Mr. Spurgeon made an earnest appeal to his hearers for pecuniary assistance to supply the need. Some half-dozen of the young ministers now in full exercise of their functions in different parts of the country addressed the meeting with a readiness and power that sufficiently explained the success which each and all had to recount, while the general statistics which were quoted showed that, during the past seven years, 169 churches have been built and 19,042 members added to the Baptist congregations.

Correspondence.

OUR FARM LABOURERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The writer of an article on the "Agricultural Movement" in your journal of the 10th April has commented on my letter in terms of which I make no complaint, however I may differ from his conclusions. He has, however, been misled as to one point in my statement which touches the very centre and heart of the question, and which, therefore, I wish to make perfectly clear. My special object was to show that the farm-labourers' lot is, on the whole, as good as that of any similar class of labourers in town or country. Unfortunately, your printer did not observe that I struck out the words "dock-labourers" in the proof of the letter, and so in error these words were inserted, and gave the writer of your article the opportunity of retorting, fairly enough, that to say the farm-labourer's position is as good as that of certain degraded classes in towns was no answer to his former allegations. But, Sir, I assure you that I do not wish in any way to blink

the question at issue, and I struck out the words "dock-labourers" from my letter because I wished distinctly to state that the average farm-labourer, all things considered, is as well off as the average labourer in towns, who, in constant work, is receiving his twenty or twenty-two shillings a week, and is not usually considered as belonging to an abject class living in "servile poverty." I will give a case which I believe is typical and could be easily multiplied. Eighteen years ago wages were very low in this place, that is, the actual full earnings of a labourer were about twelve shillings a week. A very hearty and fairly intelligent man who had worked for me several years obtained a situation in London as carman at eighteen shillings a week. I assisted him to go, and hoped he had made a change for the better. He stayed in London about four years, and then wrote to me asking if I could give him constant work if he returned. I advised him to stay, but back he came, and from that time to the present has been a steady and respected worker on my farm. Surely, Sir, such a fact goes far to show that fourteen shillings a week, the present wage, is equal to twenty-one in a large town. I do not say these wages are large, and should be glad to see them steadily increase, but men receiving them do not "vegetate in hopeless misery."

After all, it is true that the more important question is whether there is any real improvement in the condition of the farm-labourer. I am quite confident there has been a sensible improvement within the last twenty years. It has been a favourite subject of inquiry with me, and farm-labourers have invariably acknowledged the improvement, although they sometimes regret the fact that the custom of service in the farmhouse for the young men has been given up. My previous statement of the increase of wages as being from fifteen to eighteen per cent. was cautiously within the mark.

In answer to my objection that unions and strikes mean preparation for war, or even war itself, it is asked in the article, "Does combination, which is merely the organised assertion of a natural and admitted right, mean war, or anything like it?" And I answer by saying that it does mean war. To withdraw to better paid fields of labour, and so to lessen the supply where badly paid, is the natural method for raising wages. To combine to force a rise by a strike, or a threat of striking, is war; it may be in certain rare cases justifiable and lawful, but it is war. And it must only lead to reprisals which embitter all relations between employers and employed. What have been the results already arrived at in our large towns where "the union and the masters fight it out"? Well, Sir, I frequently go to one large town, and when I enter a place of worship and ask for the operatives, I am told by the masters that they will not even enter into a church or a chapel where their masters worship. With all our evils in the country we are better than this, and I trust the time will never come when such alienation of classes will exist among us.

There are, Sir, in this matter many facts that are apparent and not real. I could wish that every writer on this subject not intimately acquainted with its details, would, before putting pen to paper, carefully read the article by Mr. Herbert Spencer in the *Contemporary Review* for April.

Your obedient servant,

C. P. TEBBUTT.

Bluntisham, April 22, 1872.

P.S.—Pardon my adding that I see Mr. Gibson Ward has attacked my letter. I wish to be courteous to Mr. Ward, but I really think it would be of no use for me to try to explain to him my views more fully. We do not seem to attach the same meaning to words. He says I described Huntingdonshire "as a labourers, Arcadia." Here he entirely misunderstands me. Further on he says that "At the end of the last century more than half of the 400,000 acres that cover Huntingdonshire were the property of the labourers of that county." Here I hope I misunderstand him. How hopeless that we should understand one another!

ALLEGED SECESSION TO THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH AT MARCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—A paragraph appeared in your journal some weeks since, stating that the Independent minister at March, Cambridgeshire, had abandoned his Dissenting principles and gone over to the Church of England, taking all his congregation with him. This statement has been used very unsparingly by some Churchmen and Church journals to make capital out of against the principles of Dissent.

Will you kindly allow me, from personal knowledge, to contradict that statement? It is true Mr. Cater has professedly changed his views and left the chapel, and at the same time, as if by previous arrangement, entered upon Evangelistic work, in the same town, under the direction, and in the service of, the clergyman; but it is not true that he has taken all the congregation with him.

It was my privilege to worship in that chapel last Lord's Day, and I am happy to report the congregations were good, especially in the evening. The spiritual agencies of the Church are not weakened by Mr. Cater's withdrawal, and a unanimous invitation of the church and congregation has been given to the Rev. J. Burgess—who for several years has been labouring

at Penstanton)—to become their pastor, which I am glad to learn he has accepted.

The Sunday-school is large and in active work, with an efficient band of teachers; and, in my opinion, Mr. Burgess will enter upon his labours with every prospect of success.

I am glad to say the Nonconformists of the eastern counties do not hold their principles so cheap as your informant desired to make the world believe.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

EDWARD GRIMWADE.

Norton House, Ipswich, April 20, 1872.

THE POLYNESIAN SLAVE-TRADE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Knowing the deep interest you take in the general question of liberty, and in special phases of it, such as the modern Polynesian slave-trade, I enclose you two or three clippings from our local papers in reference to this latter. A few days ago I wrote to the *Daily Southern Cross*, calling attention to the fact that in the harbour of Auckland there was lying a vessel engaged in the slave-trade, flitted up with all the requirements needed for that diabolical purpose, and having on board a coloured man, who acts as decoy to the natives. I asked my fellow-townsmen, though they could not interfere with such vessels, to do their best to create sufficient public opinion and conscience on the question, to make respectable merchants hesitate before they became agents for such vessels, or in any way aided and abetted their projects. I may add that it is well known both that vessels either belonging to or using the port of Auckland are engaged in this slave-trade, and that Polynesians are now held as slaves in this province. Our local press has, on the whole, dealt fairly with the affair, but both pulpit and platform have been silent. The same spirit prevails in reference to this as in reference to this as in reference to our Maori difficulties. If we except Bishop Selwyn and Bishop Patteson (who, I believe, foresaw the end he reached, and the cause of it), during nine years' residence in Auckland I have not known a single effort proceed from pulpit or platform to repress the military retaliating spirit of the European colonists. What sense of justice and humanity has found expression has had quite another origin. Efforts have been made in vain to bring before the provincial authorities the extent to which the province is implicated in the slave-trade. There is too much either of interest or of moral cowardice. My conviction is that, unless there is some strong expression of opinion from the people of England, or some decisive action taken by the Imperial authority, we shall be cursed with a repetition of the old African slave-trade.

The part taken by H.M.S. Rosario I think demands the most rigid scrutiny. I have no doubt in my own mind that enormous wickedness and cruelty have been perpetrated, though it is certain that a different construction will be put upon it. There are a scattered few who will not be silent, cost what it may; but they need to be sustained by strong feeling and decisive action on the part of England.

I am, yours, &c.,

Auckland, New Zealand, SAMUEL EDGER.
Feb. 22, 1872.

The *Fiji Times* says:—"H.M.S. Rosario has paid Santa Cruz a visit, and killed about seventy people in retaliation for Bishop Patteson's death. At this island she had two of her own men killed. From Santa Cruz she was going on to Aurora, and thence to Santo."

LABOUR TRADE—MORE OUTRAGES.

By recent arrivals we hear of another murder at Tanna, the victim being this time a Mr. Morrison, at M'Leod's station, near White Sandy Beach. The murder occurred, it is supposed, some time in the latter part of November or early in December. There is not any positive certainty about the date or the circumstances attending the crime, as the natives appear to have been the informants. They state that a party called at the house, and got Morrison to come out under some pretext, when they committed the deed. The natives also report the murder of a man they call Captain Jack, and who they say belongs to a Sydney vessel, together with one of his boat's crew. Nothing definite is, however, known of the affair.—The ketch *Himarek* arrived at Delakava from a labour cruise on the 12th instant, with thirty-five foreign labourers from New Hebrides and the Banks Islands. On her downward trip, at Malleola, she lost one of her return labourers, who was shot with an arrow. Called at Apiti, where Dr. Murray, of the brig *Carl*, and another white man are, and when the boat went ashore a note was brought off to this effect:—"Beware of the natives; they mean treachery." This put the crew on their guard, and instead of going ashore, as the natives desired them, they remained in their boat until Dr. Murray came down. He told them that the natives had been very troublesome, necessitating a watch day and night on the part of himself and mate. He would not, however, leave the island, as he was expecting the *Carl* every day.

AN ELDER OF THE "PECULIAR PEOPLE" COMMITTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER.—At Plumstead, Kent, on Thursday, a man named Hurry, elder of the sect known as Peculiar People, was committed for trial for the manslaughter of his child, who died without medical attendance, of confluent smallpox. The Peculiar People, it was stated, believed neither in vaccination nor contagion. The surgeon said it was highly dangerous for the elders to lay hands on persons suffering from such a complaint, as they might probably communicate it to others.

Imperial Parliament.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

At the day sitting of the House of Commons on Wednesday, Sir H. SELWIN-IBBETSON moved the second reading of the Spirituous Liquors (Retail) Bill, to which he said the Government Licensing Bill had some likeness. After having illustrated the connection between drunkenness, crime, and pauperism by an imposing array of statistics, and claimed for his bill that it was moderate and even common-place, he warned the trade not to prolong their resistance to such a settlement too far, lest worse might befall them. He disapproved of the provisions as to the hours of closing and the licensing authorities in the Government scheme, and condemned the bills of Sir W. Lawson and Sir R. Anstruther because of the reaction which would certainly follow from the violent change they would induce. The beer interest, he contended, is at present stronger in the country and better organised than the temperance interest, and therefore he urged the importance of settling the question before the agitation and the pledges of a general election. Sir R. ANSTRUTHER moved the rejection of the bill on the ground that it would have a very different effect from that anticipated by its author. The amount of drunkenness depended on the facilities for obtaining drink, and the measure would not diminish the number of public-houses, but would in effect throw back the cause of temperance for a quarter of a century. In seconding the amendment, Mr. PEASE maintained that the bill was not calculated to cope with an evil under which crime and pauperism had enormously increased. He was also of opinion that no measure would be satisfactory which did not recognise the right of the ratepayers to have a voice in the election of the licensing authority. Mr. TREVELYAN, going through the clauses of the bill, pointed out that they gave no prospect of reducing the number of licensed houses, but, on the contrary, conferred an indefeasible Parliamentary title on the existing houses. The bill was made worse than useless by the concessions its author had made for the sake of settling the question. It afforded no ground for legislation, and he therefore urged the House to reject it. Speaking as a brewer, Mr. WATNEY stated his conviction that the number of public-houses had nothing to do with drunkenness, and reminded the House that by a recent change in the law grocers were allowed to retail wines and spirits in bottles—a circumstance which had no doubt tended to increase the consumption of those stimulants. He recommended the House to support the bill, on the ground that its effect would be to bring public-houses under a better system of regulation, and also tend to limit the number of them. Mr. BRUCE expressed his anxiety for a moderate settlement of the question, but could not regard Sir H. Selwin-ibbetson's bill as satisfactory. What might be done at once, and was indispensable, was to improve the licensing authority and to reduce and keep down the number of public-houses. But this bill would effect neither of these purposes. Mr. BRUCE, however, suggested that the further progress of the bill should be suspended until the Government bill came down from the House of Lords, and that the two bills should proceed *pari passu*. Mr. HARDY was disposed to recommend that the offer of the Home Secretary should be accepted, but in that case he thought the mover of the bill ought to have any facilities the Government could give him. Sir H. SELWIN-IBBETSON agreed to hold over his bill only on condition that it was read a second time; but Mr. BRUCE would not consent to this. The adjournment of the debate was then moved by Mr. MORRISON, and supported by Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Thomas Hughes, and others until a quarter to six, when the debate stood postponed by the rules of the House.

THE BALLOT BILL.

On Thursday the Commons resumed the consideration of the Ballot Bill in committee, taking up the discussion on the amendment of Mr. Vernon Harcourt to the amendment of Mr. Leatham, to insert the words "with corrupt intent," as applied to the exhibition of a ballot paper by an elector, instead of the word "wilful." Mr. FORSTER stated that the Government found it impossible to accept this amendment, and explained that their reasons for resolving upon this course were that the introduction of the words "with corrupt intent" would, in their opinion, put the voter in a worse position than before as regarded protection. Mr. HARCOURT contended that this argument would stultify both the Government and the Liberal party, because not only had the Government introduced the bill this year without any provision of the sort, but the House had last year passed a bill without it, and if without it the Ballot Bill would be a "sham," the House of Lords deserved an apology for the abuse they had incurred for rejecting it. He protested against this new development of the dogma of the ballot, maintaining that the true theory of the ballot was that every man should vote freely, and should not be compelled either to vote openly or vote secretly. To the objection drawn from the facility of intimidation, he replied by dwelling on the absurdity of punishing the intimidated instead of the intimidator, and energetically condemned the modern passion for creating misdemeanours. Mr. LEATHAM, in reply to Mr. Harcourt, said that the friends of the ballot had acquiesced in the omission of the provision last year because they wanted a ballot bill of some sort

passed, whatever it might be, and proceeded to oppose the amendment, on the ground that it would practically legalise open voting. Sir G. GREY declared that he would never consent to impose this penalty on a man who chose to declare how he had voted. Mr. CHILDERS also strongly opposed Mr. Leatham's proposal, and argued from the working of the ballot in Australia that the general declaration of secrecy required from all concerned would be sufficient. Mr. H. JAMES preferred open voting to permissive secrecy, while Mr. BOUVIER denounced the imposition of enormous penalties on acts which men had hitherto been accustomed to do all their lives. After some remarks from Mr. GILPIN, Mr. CHAPLIN, Mr. GOLDNEY, Mr. S. HILL, and Mr. C. DENISON, Mr. HARCOURT, at Sir G. GREY's suggestion, withdrew his amendment, in order that the division might be taken on Mr. Leatham's.

Mr. GLADSTONE explained that all the clause meant was that a man shall not show his paper with the object of making his vote known. There was no prohibition against a man declaring how he meant to vote or how he had voted. Though the penalty might seem hard, it was, in reality, a protection to the voter against intimidation; and without some such security for complete secrecy as this, he maintained it would be possible in a small community to ascertain by a process of exhaustion how each man had voted, and thus the end of the ballot would be defeated.

Mr. GILPIN, who had long and faithfully advocated the ballot, could not accept a permissive ballot; but if the alternative was to be that a man who intentionally showed his ballot-paper was to be classed as a criminal, he could not and would not vote with the Government. It would be fair and just to forfeit the vote, and that would be an adequate punishment for the offence.

The committee then divided on Mr. Leatham's amendment—"That no voter shall, after marking his vote on his ballot-paper, display such paper in such manner as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for or against whom he had so marked his vote."

Considerable excitement was manifested during the progress of the division, and on the paper being handed to Mr. Vernon Harcourt showing that the amendment had been defeated, a loud roar of cheering rose from the Opposition benches. The numbers were

Ayes	246
Noes	274

Majority against the amendment ... —28

On the announcement of the numbers by the chairman the cheering was again renewed and kept up for several seconds.

Mr. OSBORNE asked whether, after this defeat, the Government meant to go on with the measure. Mr. GLADSTONE rose to answer him, but was called to order by Sir G. GREY. The CHAIRMAN having decided that there was no question before the committee, Mr. HARCOURT moved an amendment subjecting to three months' imprisonment any person who by the exercise of undue influence shall induce a voter to display his ballot-paper—thus transferring the punishment from the intimidated to the intimidator. Mr. GLADSTONE took advantage of it to state that, though the Ballot Bill had received a serious blow by the last division, he did not think it would be consistent with the duty of the Government to abandon it. Mr. FORSTER accepted Mr. Harcourt's amendment on condition that the qualification of undue influence were omitted, which was carried by 153 to 87, and the amendment was then added to the clause. Mr. CORRANCE moved to increase the penalties under the bill from three months' to six months' imprisonment, and this having been carried with the assent of the Government, by 121 to 48, Clause 4 was agreed to.

The rest of the sitting was occupied by Clause 5, which prescribes how counties and boroughs are to be divided into polling districts. Sir M. HICKS BEACH moved that all these arrangements shall be made before November next, so that if the bill passes all may be in readiness for a general election next year. Mr. FORSTER opposed this, and the amendment was negatived on a division by 108 to 158. Mr. HEYGATE proposed that there shall be a polling-place in counties within two miles of every voter, instead of four, as the clause requires. This was discussed at some length, and ultimately the committee decided against it by 245 to 193. Mr. C. BENTINCK moved to amend the clause so as to make the division of boroughs into polling districts compulsory instead of optional. This also was rejected by 216 to 108; and the chairman was then ordered to report progress.

In committee on Monday some progress was made with the bill. Clauses 5, 6, and 7 were agreed to, and on Clause 8, which defines the general powers and duties of the returning officer, Mr. GRAVES proposed to make provision for taking the votes of officers in the mercantile marine, registered seamen, and licensed pilots who may be compelled to go to sea between the nomination and the opening of the poll. The amendment was supported by Mr. C. Sykes, Mr. R. Fowler, Mr. Magniac, Mr. T. Collins, and Mr. Scourfield, but resisted by Mr. FORSTER, and on a division it was negatived by 241 to 154-votes. On Clauses 9, 10, and 11, also relating to returning officers, no discussion took place. Mr. HUNT moved the omission of Clause 12, which provides that no voter shall be compelled to disclose his vote in any legal proceedings relating to the election. The prohibition, he maintained, was secrecy run mad; and Mr. S. HILL, who seconded him, said that it would wipe out the Corrupt

Practices Act. Mr. FORSTER refused to suppress the clause, which, he contended, was necessary to prevent the object of the bill from being forfeited, and on a division it was carried by 193 to 91 votes. Clause 16, making arrangements for the polling-places in Scotland, was agreed to as proposed, an amendment moved by Mr. GORDON to substitute the sheriff for the Lord Advocate as the authority to fix new polling-places being defeated by 155 to 90 votes. On Clause 18, relating to Irish polling-places, Mr. BRUEN proposed that in all Irish counties there shall be a polling-place within four miles of each elector, with the proviso, however, that a polling district need not be constituted for less than 100 electors. The amendment was rejected on division by 219 to 136 votes. The clause was agreed to, and the committee adjourned to Thursday.

SPAIN AND CUBA.

On Friday, on the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. HUGHES called attention to the incidents of the civil war in Cuba in connection with the question of slavery, and moved an address praying Her Majesty to urge upon the Spanish Government the fulfilment of those treaty obligations which Spain has so long neglected. He contended that public opinion in Spain and Cuba is opposed to slavery, which is only maintained by a certain party in Cuba, and detailed some of the horrors of the Chinese coolie traffic. He argued, from the treaties, that we have a right to interfere, and, among other things, he recommended that there should be a consul or commissioner in Cuba to look after the Chinese. The motion was supported by Mr. GILPIN and Mr. R. FOWLER, and after some remarks from Sir C. WINGFIELD and Major ARBUTHNOT, Lord ENFIELD stated that our treaties with Spain gave us no power to interfere with the domestic institution of slavery; and with regard to the African slave-trade, Spain had carried out her engagements so fairly that for the last five years no cargo of slaves had been landed in Cuba. On the other hand, her obligations with regard to the emancipados in Cuba had not been performed as we had a right to expect. The best hope of free labour in Cuba lay in the faithful execution of the law passed by the Spanish Senate two years ago. Allowance, however, he urged, must be made for the difficulties which Spain has recently had to encounter, and it was to be hoped when her political condition became more settled she would fulfil all her engagements in this matter. Mr. HUGHES consequently withdrew his motion.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Ward Hunt has been selected chairman of the committee which is to sit on the Game Laws, Sir George Grey having declined.

In the Lords on Thursday, on the report of the Prayer-book (Shortened Services) Bill, a conversation ensued on an amendment about evening communion moved by Lord Dynevor, between Lord Ebury and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The amendment was not pressed; but, on the motion of the Bishop of Carlisle, the title of the measure was changed to the "Act of Uniformity Amendment Bill of 1872." It was read a third time and passed on Monday.

The Bishops' Resignation Bill has been read a second time, as also has the Union of Benefices Act (Amendment) Bill. The latter, brought in by the Bishop of London, has been referred to a select committee.

Mr. Goschen on Friday, replying to Lord H. Lennox, said that, in consequence of the report of the Megara Commission, certain reforms had been initiated in the administration of the Admiralty, and that the officers censured in the report had been put upon their defence.

On the understanding that the Government, as announced by Mr. Gladstone, intended to recall the decision they arrived at a short time ago with respect to a provision for Lady Mayo and her children, Mr. Bernal Osborne consented to drop the motion on the subject he had given notice of for Friday.

On Friday the Royal Parks and Gardens Bill was read a third time and passed in the Commons by a majority of 114 to 19. The Marquis of Hartington brought in a bill to explain and amend the Irish Land Act of 1870 as far as relates to the purchase by tenants of their holdings. Mr. Mundella obtained leave to bring in a bill to make further provisions for arbitration between masters and workmen.

The Lord Advocate states that the Scotch Education Bill is to be proceeded with "as soon as the Ballot Bill is through the House of Commons."

Mr. Fowler has given notice that on an early day he will move for leave to bring in a bill for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

While the Ballot Bill was being discussed on Monday, Mr. John Bright took his seat upon the Treasury Bench, and remained for some time in earnest conversation with the Prime Minister.

THE DIVISION ON THE BALLOT.—The division on Thursday night resulted in another defeat of Government by twenty-eight, in a crowded House of 525 members, the fullest of the session. The minority was composed exclusively of Liberals, and includes Mr. Akroyd, Mr. Horsman, Mr. Headlam, Sir C. Dilke, Hon. A. Herbert, Mr. Bernal Osborne, Sir W. Hutt, and Mr. James White, and some of the Home rulers, viz., Mr. Smyth, Mr. Rowland Blennerhasset, Mr. Maguire, and The O'Connor Don. The majority against Government was composed of 238 Conservatives and thirty-six Liberals, including Mr. Bouverie, Mr.

Fawcett, the Marquis of Lorne, Sir R. Peel, Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens, Sir H. Hoare, Mr. Locke, Sir G. Grey, and Mr. Childers. Mr. Gilpin, who spoke against Mr. Leatham's amendment, did not vote. Ninety Liberals were absent without pairs.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

At the meeting of the board on Wednesday it was resolved that a piece of land on the Thames Embankment near the Temple should be purchased for the erection of a proper building for the offices of the board. The other business was mostly of a formal character.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.—The result of the polling at Westminster on Friday, in the election of a successor to Viscount Sandon on the London School Board, has now been published. Mr. George Potter was a candidate in the interest of secular national education, and Viscount Mahon was in favour of religious education. The voting was as follows:—Viscount Mahon, 5,505; Mr. George Potter, 1,130. Viscount Mahon was therefore elected by a majority of 4,375 votes. A large proportion of the constituency remained unpollled. Mr. Potter has issued the following address to his supporters:—"Friends,—The Tories, Churchmen, Catholics, and Wesleyans combined have been too strong for us; and, owing to the absence of the Liberal and Nonconformist voters from the polling-places, I have lost the election. To those friends who have supported me I beg to return my sincere and grateful thanks, and I earnestly hope they will not be disheartened, but remember that the election of the whole of the school board in November of next year, under the cumulative vote, that the 1,130 electors who have supported me in this contest can then poll 5,650 votes. These, without other friends, will be sufficient to obtain for me on that occasion one of the five seats which I shall, if all be well, certainly try to obtain. Wealth, power, privilege, misrepresentation, and organisation have been against us; but the principles which I uphold are right, and must ultimately triumph. Courage, friends of progress; time is on our side, and with determination we shall yet succeed. Already it has been announced that the Government expects to go to wreck this week on the religious difficulty. Mr. Fawcett's motion relative to Trinity College, Dublin, threatens to bring the first punishment for its desertion of principle, and it may be added, the first warning to the public for preferring struggles for denominational ascendancy to a broad, liberal, and just system of national education. I am, yours obediently, GEORGE POTTER, 96, Denbigh-street, S.W."

GREENWICH.—For the vacancy in the school board district the only candidates are Mr. James Soames, churchwarden, of Greenwich, and Mr. H. Gover, of Sydenham-hill. Various meetings of the committees of both gentlemen have been held in different parts of the district, and an active canvass for votes is being carried on for each. The contest is expected to be very close. Dr. W. C. Bennett has retired from the contest.

A CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER RESISTING AN EDUCATION RATE.—On Friday, at the police-court, Stoke-upon-Trent, before the stipendiary magistrate, the Rev. Thomas Cocker, pastor of the Congregational church, was summoned for having refused to pay an education rate of 1s. 7d. Mr. Turner, solicitor, appeared on behalf of Mr. Cocker, and declared that though the rate was a legal one he should decline to pay on account of conscientious motives, one portion of the rate being devoted to the support of denominational schools. The magistrate made an order for the payment of the rate and the costs. Mr. Turner said the rate would not be paid, and it would be necessary to issue a distress, and recover the money in that way.

EDUCATION MEETING AT HARTLEPOOL.—On Friday evening a crowded meeting was held in the West Hartlepool Athenæum, under the auspices of the Birmingham League, to consider the advisability of repealing the 25th clause of the Education Act. The chair was occupied by Mr. Gray, J.P. The proceedings were rather uproarious. Mr. Glover proposed a resolution to the effect that the meeting adopt a petition in favour of Mr. Candlish's motion to repeal the Education Act of last session. This was seconded by Mr. Burnett, president of the Nine Hours' League. An amendment was moved by Dr. Tristram—

That this meeting repudiates the action of the Birmingham League, maintains the right of any parent, however poor, to choose for his own children the school where they may be educated in his own faith, and protests against the poorest being compelled to send their children to secular schools and to none others.

This was seconded, amidst considerable interruption, by Mr. Burgess. On its being put to the meeting, about two-fifths voted for it, and three-fifths for the resolution, which the chairman declared carried. Dr. Tristram and his friends loudly protested.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.—The Duke of Argyll has addressed a letter to Dr. Mackenzie, of Eileanach, Inverness-shire, on the subject of education in Scotland. The following is the most important portion of the communication:—"You may depend upon it, that however needless it may appear with reference to the practice long established in Scotland, a time-table conscience clause is not only a Parliamentary ne-

cessity, but it is a just and reasonable part of any system which compels attendance at schools where there is religious teaching. The alternatives would seem to be either to give up compulsion, or to prohibit religious teaching altogether in all public schools. And this last is the alternative to which things are tending (although it may do violence to conscience as much as any other), unless those who dread and oppose it cease to squabble among themselves, and cease to be pertinacious against reasonable concessions. I believe that the banishing of religious teaching from public schools is a course opposed to the feelings and the opinions of the great body of the people. If it is ever brought about, it will be the effect of mere 'drift,' and not of reason or of intelligent conviction. It is all very well to say that if religious teaching can be conducted at a separate time it can also be conducted in a separate place and by separate masters. So it can. But we must all know that there are thousands upon thousands of children in this country who, if they get no religious teaching in the school, will get it nowhere else, and at no other time. The population has outgrown the churches. In Scotland the difficulty of combining secular and religious teaching has never arisen as a practical difficulty; and if there is good sense and moderation among the friends of this union, the artificial difficulties which arise out of mere theoretical and Parliamentary discussion will be overcome. But for this purpose we must accept what is just and necessary as a part of a general enactment, which is to apply universally to a people belonging to many churches, and a great part of which may belong to none."

THE PERMISSIVE BILL.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the friends and members of the United Kingdom Alliance took place on Wednesday evening in Exeter Hall.

The chair was taken by BENJAMIN WHITWORTH, Esq., J.P., who, on opening the proceedings, cited the greatness of the meeting as a proof that the interest of the public in the question was not lessening. A crisis had arrived in their affairs. The Government bill was good, so far as it went, and if they could only tack the people's veto to it, it would be an admirable measure. It was to be hoped that the Government would adhere to the provision for keeping the public-houses closed till seven o'clock in the morning. The question, however, would never be settled until the people had it in their own hands. Alliance men would support any restrictive measure, while biding their time for the full measure of restriction which they demanded. Mr. Fothergill, M.P., of Dowlais, had taken the sense of his workmen on the Permissive Bill, and, though the hon. gentleman was known himself to be opposed to the measure, two to one of his men voted by ballot in its favour. It had been said that Mr. Bass, M.P., had threatened to spend 100,000*l.* in agitating against the Alliance. He thought the hon. gentleman did not display very much sense if he was going to give such a sum to perpetuate a traffic which was doing so much harm; but, if he did, the friends of the Alliance would soon double that amount to oppose him. (Cheers.)

Mr. HENRY VARLEY moved the first resolution:—

That no subject of social and political reform can have stronger claims upon the enlightened sympathies of patriotic statesmen and citizens than the removal of temptations to intemperance, and that experience has fully proved the great value and necessity of vigorous legislation directed against the licensed sources of this national and terrible evil.

As a proof of the unnatural character of the present liquor-traffic, he cited the fact that in Bristol, while 300 bakers and 260 butchers sufficed to supply wholesome food, 1,300 publicans were thought necessary to supply intoxicating drinks, that proportion being the normal one all over the kingdom. Their question stood before the educational question, and was infinitely higher than Liberalism or Toryism. Their watchword, therefore, should be "Onward." (Cheers.)

Mr. W. S. ALLEN, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. GOULD, the American Consul at Birmingham, who, as a native of the State of Maine, and for many years a witness of the working of the Maine law, asserted that it was a glorious success. (Cheers.)

Sir WILFRID LAWSON, M.P., who was received with enthusiasm, said he believed it would not be long before they attained their grand object, though they had before them a tremendous conflict. They were met to attack one of the most powerful vested interests the world had ever seen, for it was the greatest employer of labour in the country. Not only did it employ 150,000 persons who were licensed to sell the liquors which made the people drunk and miserable, but it was also the principal employer of the judges, the doctors, the lawyers, the police, the gaolers, the turnkeys, and the hangman. (Cheers.) The best plan for attacking that giant monopoly was what was called the Permissive Bill, which only prevented magistrates from granting licences when the people did not want them. The bill had been four times before the House of Commons, and it would be brought forward again on the 8th of May next. The pressure in favour of that bill was now so great that their opponents were casting about for means to choke off the United Kingdom Alliance. Referring to Mr. Birley's bill for closing public-houses on Sunday, and to Mr. Pim's and Sir Dominic Corrigan's bill for the same purpose in Ireland, he wished them all success; while in regard to Sir Selwin-Ibbetson's licensing bill, he cited the neutral opinion of Mr. Pease, M.P., who

described it as rendering the present curse permanent by depriving magistrates of the power to take away licences. Of Sir Robert Anstruther's bill he said that it was full of very good things, its great merit being that it was the Permissive Bill with 130 additional clauses, which put both the issue and regulation of licences into the hands of the people themselves. But there was much truth in the old adage of more haste and less speed, and he thought the supporters of that bill would do well to get through that one clause which placed the veto in the hands of the people. The question had now got into good society, the Lords having undertaken work in the shape of dealing with the licensing question. They would oppose nobody's bill which tended to diminish the liquor traffic; but they never would cease to demand and work for the full veto of the people over the granting of licences, and that would be attained if they were earnest, united, and resolved. (Cheers.)

Three cheers were called for the "Champion," and most heartily given. The motion was carried unanimously with loud cheers.

Mr. W. JOHNSTON, M.P., then moved the second resolution, which was to the effect that nothing less than the popular veto would satisfy the people, or be a cure for the evils of the present system. He said the great and prosperous province of Ulster was heartily with them in favour of the Permissive Bill, and its representatives would be in their places to vote for the second reading on the 8th of May next. Mr. SAUNDERS seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. S. POPE, Q.C., then addressed the meeting, and while expressing his regret that there was no opposition, and that all were of one mind, evoked it in the person of a Mr. GRAZEBROOK, who urged that interference to prevent people drinking would only increase the desire to drink; the true means being moral suasion. A statement that the Maine Liquor Law had failed called forth a storm of dissent, and he wound up with something like a success by suggesting the adoption of the American plan of treating inebriates by incarceration, and impregnating every article of food and drink with the favourite tippie of the drunkard. Mr. POPE, resuming his speech, pointed out that the Alliance was not seeking any restriction on popular liberty, but really desiring to give an extension to popular power by giving the people the right of veto in regard to licences when they did not want them.

The other motions were carried—the first thanking members of Parliament who have hitherto supported the Permissive Bill, and asking them for their renewed support on the 8th of May; and the second adopting a petition to the House of Commons, praying for the passing of that measure.

A conference of directors and managers of railways, called by the National Temperance League, was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Wednesday, Mr. Samuel Bowly in the chair. The chairman of the league committee read a paper urging reform in railway refreshment-rooms, and a resolution was passed deprecating their degeneration into mere drinking bars.

Some important evidence was given on Friday before the committee of the House of Commons on habitual drunkards by Captain M'Neil, chief constable of the West Riding, and Mr. Jackson, chief constable of Sheffield. Captain M'Neil said that drunkenness had materially increased of late, mainly owing to the high rate of wages and the hours of idleness, which were also the hours of temptation and improvidence. Regarding adulteration, he should impose heavy penalties, because there were certain houses where a man could get quicker and more cheaply drunk than others, in consequence of the inferior and deteriorated nature of the liquor retailed. The increase in the committals for drunkenness was almost universal, and in some cases they had actually doubled in a very short time. According to his experience, as the population became more dense the drinking habits grew more intensified. The adulteration was principally manifested in beer. Mr. Jackson was of opinion that if a publican supplied drink to a man who had already had enough he should be fined, and on a repetition of the offence he should be deprived of his licence.

THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS COMMISSION AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Endowed Schools Commissioners to the Committee of Council on Education has been issued, and contains matter of much general and special interest. After observing on the limitations imposed on the commission as to the period of its existence, the commissioners enter at large into the questions they have had to consider, and the difficulties they have encountered. On the subject of religious instruction, which has been so much remarked upon out of doors, the commissioners have not themselves felt much difficulty:—

The intention of the Act can hardly, we think, be mistaken. Its object is to leave the religious character of these foundations to be determined with the utmost freedom by the local managers. We have therefore laid on the governing body and the head master, each within the general powers assigned them by the scheme, the special duty of regulating the religious instruction to be given in the school. It is undeniable that under that provision the duty so enjoined may be performed in greater or less proportion to other instruction, but still the matter must be left to the governing body, who, it is hoped, will be so constructed as always to study the needs and sentiments of those who use the

school. In some few cases we have been asked to attempt some definition of the religious teaching to be given, or, on the other hand, to restrict governing bodies in this matter by some such provision as the well-known one in the Elementary Education Act (sect. 14) prohibiting the use of certain formularies. But we conceive that so to interfere with the discretion of the governors of schools would tend not to diminish but to increase embarrassment. It should be observed that the liberty which we have thus allowed to managers is real and entire, and as much in one direction as in another. We hope that the above statements will have made it clear what are the actual features of the schemes framed or proposed by us upon their denominational side. That they should be easily understood without some study, or that they should satisfy zealous partisans, is not to be expected.

The experience of the commissioners in attempting to work the Act has shown that the country was hardly prepared for its reception. There is doubtless, they say, much more general understanding on the subject than existed in August, 1869, and every case discussed and every scheme passed will, it may be hoped, render it easier to deal with the rest. The commissioners observe, in conclusion, that they have no wish to exaggerate the difficulties and failures which are the invariable concomitants of either a new law or a new machinery.

In our case a wholly new machine has been set to work a law, of which a large portion is new, and thereby to disturb a great number of interests, traditions, and sentiments. And we have not had to wait till suitors came to us for assistance, but to take the initiative in bringing the law to bear on them. The number of cases in different stages which have been dealt with or are now going on will afford some indication of the progress we have made. In this report we have thought it right to exhibit those matters which will best enable Her Majesty's advisers or the Legislature to form a judgment whether the commission should be continued, or whether any and what new arrangements could be made. For ourselves, we hope we may be allowed to say that our only object has been to give due effect to a statute somewhat novel and undoubtedly very stringent and drastic in its character. We have often heard it said that while the powers we possess under the Act certainly answer that description, it was not the intention of Parliament that they should be exerted to their full extent. They have not in fact been exerted to anything like their full extent. But the history of the subject does not support the view that the Act should not be strenuously worked. Nothing but a strong sense in the mind of Parliament of the great and accumulating evils which have gathered round this mass of endowment, as brought out with clearness and copiousness in the Schools Inquiry Report, and of the need of unusually strong measures in treating them, would have induced the Legislature to pass so powerful an enactment.

The appendix contains specimens of the schemes framed for various classes of schools. It appears that since the commission was established 24 schemes have become law. In 34 cases schemes have been submitted to the Education Department, but have not been laid before Parliament. In 84 cases schemes have been published, but not yet submitted to the Education Department. In 214 cases schemes are under discussion, and in 733 cases correspondence merely has been carried on. In all, 1,085 cases have been touched. The case of Emanuel Hospital is touched upon, and the necessity of change demonstrated by an extract from the Schools Inquiry Commission Reports.

OUR FARM-LABOURERS.

It is proposed to hold a conference at Willis's Rooms on Tuesday, the 30th inst., and the following day, for discussing the influences of unionism among farm-labourers, and other kindred questions affecting the agricultural interests of this country. The chair will be taken on Tuesday by Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., and on Wednesday by Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P. Mr. Joseph Arch, of Warwickshire, and labourers from numerous counties, will take part in the proceedings.

Agents and others interested are striving hard to form the agricultural labourers of the counties of Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, and Shropshire into a union of 30,000 members, and it is said that they fully expect to succeed in their purpose before three months are passed. Night-meetings are being held in various parts of Gloucestershire. The movement for an advance of wages amongst the agricultural labourers of Cambridgeshire appears to be spreading. A general strike of the labourers in the Newmarket district is anticipated, unless the demands of the men are complied with—namely, 16s. a week for ordinary labourers and 18s. a week for horse-keepers. The Labourers' Union in Huntingdonshire now numbers over 1,400 members, drawn from thirty-one towns and villages. Many have been thrown out of work through joining the union, but they are assisted as far as possible by the contributions of the members, which consist of an entrance fee of 6d. and a weekly payment of 2d. The headquarters are at Brampton. A delegate meeting of Lincolnshire labourers is to be held this week at Grantham, when Mr. Auberon Herbert, Mr. Alderman Carter, and Mr. George Dixon are expected to be present. The agitation has reached the county of Kent. Last Wednesday night a large meeting of labourers was held at Shoreham, a short distance from Sevenoaks, and it was determined, amid enthusiastic demonstrations, to form a union on the same basis as that of Warwickshire. The movement was quite spontaneous on the part of the men, and is likely to spread throughout the county. A rise of two or three shillings per week is likely to be the amount of the increase claimed by the men, with a reduction of time.

Some of the Suffolk farmers have shown a certain

spirit of conciliation towards their labourers now on strike by offering them an advance of 1s. per week. The men seem unwilling, however, to accept this advance. It is rumoured that the Essex labourers are becoming dissatisfied, and a large mass meeting composed of labourers from the Hedinghams, Belchamps, &c., is talked of. Some years since in several of these parishes the men were only getting 7s. or 8s. per week, but of late there have been various improvements in their condition. Agitation has likewise extended to the rural districts of Somerset. Mr. R. Arthur Kinglake, of Taunton, who has espoused the cause of the labourers in that county, suggests that they should be provided with good cottages and allotment grounds. In Dorset the employers have made liberal concessions. The Earl of Carnarvon has raised the wages of his first-class labourers 1s. a week, and given those who can be spared a half-holiday on Saturdays. He has also directed that all his labourers should be paid on Wednesdays.

We have received another letter from our correspondent, Mr. W. Gibson Ward, of Ross, Herefordshire, from which the following are extracts:—

My last letter concluded with the words, "England was once happy England for our poor farm-labourers, when they were not compelled to live upon less than a pauper's share or a felon's rations." You cut out the words in italics. I shall proceed to justify its use, and show it is no mere rhetoric phrase or rounding off a sentence with sonorous words.

Take, for instance, a farm-labourer with his wife and six children at the present time, they cannot be fed at a union-house under twenty-four shillings a week. And then clothing and house shelter must be provided in addition. And then the union can contract for food at a cost less by ten per cent. than a labourer can purchase it a village shop. And the pauper's weekly share is 14s. ounces of solid food with the addition of ninepence and a half pints of gruel, broth, and soup, an amount of food that not one of Mr. Tebbatt's men with a wife and family can purchase upon his liberal allowance of twelve shillings a week, even if his cottage and clothing are provided by charity. But a "felon's rations" are far more liberal and costly. Actually an excess of 100 ounces a week over the pauper. The prisoner has three meals a day, at least two hot, and hot meat every day, and the governor of the prison must see that the felon is not disturbed too soon after a meal. His cell must be warmed up to a thermometer's exactness. His clothing must be sufficient for comfort night and day.

Contrast Hodge in his hovel with a wet floor and rotting thatch, the wind whistling through broken walls and dilapidated windows. His fire, the scanty gatherings of browse from the wood, and a charity gift of a barrow of coals at Christmas. His food, dry bread, occasionally enlivened with potatoes. No hot meat dinners, no soup, no cocoa—the delicacies of the jail for the garrotter and the wife-bruise—can be procured by poor Hodge, even if he resides in the Huntingdonshire Arcadia.

When Hodge was a chattel, a fixture of the soil, he was better fed than as a slave than he can feed himself now as a free man. Dugdale, in his "History of Warwickshire," speaking of Stoneleigh when a part of the domains of William the Conqueror, quotes from Doomsday Book the allowance of food provided for the labourers. They were to have a small wheaten loaf, four eggs, pottage, cheese, and beer for dinner, bread and cheese and beer for other meals. Eight hundred years of progress have added to every class comforts, protection, and luxuries, except our farm-labourers. They have gained nothing, but absolutely lost every privilege, "estiver," "pannage," and even the comfort of plenty and variety of food.

If we move on three hundred years we find the farm-labourers revelling in plenty. Positively their excesses in food and clothing shock the moderation of ruling powers. And in the year 1363, the 37th of Edward III. c. 4, carters, ploughmen, and all other farm servants are enjoined by Act of Parliament not to eat or drink "excessively," or to wear any cloth except "blanket or russet wool of twelve pence." A sheep was then worth five shillings, therefore the "russet wool" is equivalent to broad cloth of ten or twelve shillings of our days.

In the following reign we have another testimony to the well-doing of our peasantry. Fortescue, Lord Chief Justice to Henry VI., was exiled to France, and published a book describing the low estate of the French peasant in comparison with the English. Speaking of his countrymen, he says—"They drink no water unless it be for devotion, and they eat plentifully of all kinds of flesh and fish. They wear fine woollen cloth; their houses have great store," &c., &c. In the midst of laws to keep down the wages of agricultural labourers, we still find others to condemn and repress their luxury and extravagance. It seems they even decorated their dress with the precious metals; and they are forbidden, in 1463, 3rd Edward IV., c. 5, to have their girdles garnished with silver. Their cloth must not cost more than two shillings a yard, their hose not more than fourpence a pair, and their wives' headdress twelpence. Multiply these figures by nine, and you bring them to our money power of to-day.

But the prosperity of the farm-labourer in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries defied the restrictions and sumptuary laws of Parliament. In 1482, 22 Edward IV. c. 1, another attempt was made, with a little more liberality, to restrain the extravagance of the farm-labourer. He may have hose as dear as eightpence, and his wife's headgear may cost twentypence. Surely it cannot be necessary to say these silly sumptuary laws are only quoted to prove the prosperity of the labourer, and not the wisdom of the legislator.

If we hurry on another seventy years we are landed in Queen Mary's reign, and in 1554 we have many Spaniards in the country in the train of Philip, her husband. They were astonished at the liberal diet of the peasantry. "The English," they said, "make their houses of sticks and dirt, but they fare as well as the king."

But this prosperity of centuries had been for a long time undermined, and at last it fell in partial ruin. Small freeholders were harassed out of their estates that the land might be turned into large farms, and

laid down in grass. Less freeholds, less prosperity; less tillage, less employment; till, instead of sumptuary laws, we find legislation against vagrants and beggars, and as large farms came in fashion they involved a poor-rate. And poverty and suffering, and workhouses and demoralisation, have ever been associated with large estates in all countries, and in every age of the world.

The final legislative ruin of our farm-labourers was in the Enclosure Acts. Some seven million acres of the labourers' free land have been stolen from them by Act of Parliament, and left them landless, hopeless, and degraded.

If our farm-labourers are to be placed in a fair position of permanent prosperity, something more must be done for them than adding a few shillings to their small weekly wages. They must be gradually restored with land, and then our villages may increase in numbers, in prosperity, and happiness; and England then will be again happy England, and again will a happy peasantry be "their country's pride."

Epitome of News.

The Queen paid a visit to Chislehurst on Saturday. Her Majesty spent about half an hour in conversation with the ex-Emperor and Empress, who both appeared to be in good health. There was an unpremeditated coincidence in the visit happening on His Majesty's sixty-fourth birthday.

On Monday Her Majesty held a Council at Windsor. The Ministers included Viscount Sydney, Mr. Lowe, and the Marquis of Ripon. Mr. Alderman Dakin accompanied them, and was knighted by the Queen. Yesterday morning the Queen came to London, and held a drawing-room in the afternoon at Buckingham Palace. She is expected at Balmoral the third week in May.

The Countess of Mayo has been appointed Honorary Lady of the Bedchamber to Her Majesty.

Notice is given by the Lord Chamberlain in the *Gazette* that the presentation at Court of Lady Twiss has been cancelled.

Mr. Bright has gone to Brighton for a few days to see his daughter, who is ill.

It is stated that in the event of the Right Hon. Russell Gurney being raised to the peerage, and the office of Common Serjeant becoming vacant by the elevation of Sir J. Chambers to the Recordship, the Hon. R. Bourke, M.P. for King's Lynn, will be candidate for the vacant office.

The *Leeds Mercury* says that the Yorkshire moors were white with snow on Thursday. The fruit blossom is out in pieces.

The amount of the new Russian Loan (15,000,000*l.*) has been subscribed more than five times over in London alone.

Two garotters who had been sentenced to penal servitude, and to receive forty lashes with the cat, were flogged in Newgate Gaol, London, on Wednesday. They both howled piteously and pleaded for mercy.

With reference to the abolition of passports, Mr. John M. Cook, the excursion agent, points out that, under the new regulations of the French Government, British subjects will still have to produce their passports, properly viséd, before they can enter or leave France by the German, Italian, or Swiss frontiers.

The Atlantic cable companies are taking a step in the right direction. Pending a general reduction in the tariffs a one-word tariff will be introduced, thus allowing the sending of three words. The charge for each word is to be four shillings.

THE FUNERAL OF LORD MAYO.—At the funeral of Lord Mayo in Dublin, on Wednesday, the Lord-Lieutenant, as chief mourner, will be supported by the Marquis of Lorne—the former representing the State, and the latter being the representative of the Queen.

Messrs. Christie and Manson have disposed of a portion of the pictures collected by the late Mr. Joseph Gillott. The produce of the day's sale was about 28,000*l.*

The handsome majolica fountain which was erected by Minton in the Great Exhibition of 1862, at a cost of some 2,000*l.*, will occupy a prominent position at the south entrance of the East London Museum, Bethnal-green. The height of the fountain will be twenty-one feet, and its width forty feet.

Lord Kinnaird has written to Mr. Hope, of Fenton-barns, sympathising with him on his eviction, and "regretting the odium which has been brought on the landlords of Scotland through the conduct of one who may be said to be a stranger."

Heavy gales and snowstorms visited different parts of the country on Sunday. In London there was a violent north-eastern gale during the whole of Saturday night, accompanied by snow and rain, and on Monday for some hours the weather was as cold as midwinter. Now the temperature is milder and more spring like.

A shirtmaker in Spitalfields, who had been refused outdoor relief by the Whitechapel Union, locked herself up in her room for several days. Her purpose of starving herself had then evidently wavered. She took out the last of her clothes, sold them, and returned home with food. Next day she was found dead, with the food untouched beside her. The local coroner gave the jury to understand that he had seen many a "Song of the Shirt" end in such a dirge.

Last evening, at the monthly meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, letters were read from Dr. Kirk, which, without giving anything new respecting the fate of Dr. Livingstone, expressed the conviction of the writer that the intrepid traveller was still alive. Intelligence has been received

which threw some light upon the progress of the American expedition which had been fitted out to search for Dr. Livingstone, and it was stated that two of the party had died.

The first day's sale of the collection of pictures, the property of the late Mr. Gillott, of Birmingham, although realising close upon 30,000 guineas, was completely thrown into the shade by that of Saturday, when the returns fell but a trifle short of 50,000 guineas.

The nomination for Wexford caused by the resignation of Mr. Devereux, took place yesterday. Mr. Redmond, a Home-Ruler, was returned unopposed.

A fire, by which great damage was done, occurred yesterday at the works of Messrs. Laird, Birkenhead. The loss is estimated at 12,000*l.*

The domestic servants of Dundee held a meeting on Friday night for the purpose of forming a society for their protection and benefit. One of the young women speakers urged that the working hours of servants ought to be from six in the morning until ten at night, with a weekly holiday and every other Sunday free; and stress was also laid upon the importance of some means being afforded to servants of ascertaining the character of those into whose employment they were invited to enter.

During the hearing of the Galway election petition on Saturday, Judge Keogh announced that, subject to what the other side might state, the agency of the Roman Catholic clergy, on behalf of Captain Nolan, had been fully established, and that the sitting member was responsible for their acts. The inquiry is still going on.

On Thursday, Mr. Justice Willes heard an application in the case of Tichborne v. Mostyn, involving an action by the "Claimant" against the trustees of the Doughty estates to recover possession of that property. Mr. Hawkins intimated that he should subsequently apply that all further proceedings should be stayed until the defendants' costs in the action of Tichborne v. Lushington, which would be taxed at certainly over 40,000*l.*, had been paid; and also that the plaintiff, who was a bankrupt, should give security for the costs for this present action, which would probably amount to 40,000*l.* more. It was ultimately agreed, without prejudice to either party, that the case should go out of the list, and should not appear again unless as a special jury cause.

Yesterday the Court of Queen's Bench agreed to allow the same bail as was required by Chief Justice Bovill in the case of the "Claimant," viz., the prisoner in 5,000*l.*, and two sureties of 2,500*l.*, or four in 1,250*l.* The Attorney-General intimated that witnesses would be brought from Australia, and that the trial would not commence till November. The sureties of the Claimant are, however, to be inquired into. It is probable he will only be tried for perjury, not forgery also.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of Professors of the Royal Academy of Music, nearly twelve months ago, a testimonial was last night presented to Sir W. Sterndale Bennett, as marking the cordial sympathy of musical artists in the honour which Her Majesty had been pleased to confer upon him. The gathering took place at St. James's Hall, the Attorney-General in the chair.

There was a meeting at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on Saturday afternoon, to urge the claims of women to the Parliamentary franchise. Mrs. Fawcett, who presided, delivered a telling and animated address in support of the object of the gathering. Amongst the other speakers were Mr. W. D. Christie, Miss Morgan, the Rev. Llewelyn Davies, Mr. W. Johnston, M.P., Mrs. W. Burbury, Professor W. R. Clifford, Mr. J. F. Hamilton, of Christ College, Cambridge, and Miss Beedy, an American lady. One of the resolutions expressed the opinion of the meeting that the extension to women of political rights, by strengthening in them the sense of responsibility and the duties of citizenship, would be attended by results conducive to the highest welfare of the State.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Notwithstanding the representations made to it, the French Government has refused to commute M. Henri Rochefort's sentence to transportation to a fortress.

From Bombay we have intelligence of the wreck of the ship *Maria*, belonging to the Guinea expedition, with a loss of thirty-five lives.

The Imperial Government agree to guarantee a Canadian loan of 2,500,000*l.* for the Pacific Railway and canal improvements on condition that Canada accepts the Treaty of Washington.

The Italian Minister of Public Instruction has introduced a Compulsory Education Bill.

M. Guizot presided on Saturday at the assembly of the Protestant Primary Instruction Society. He delivered a speech, in which he pronounced himself in favour of obligatory and secular instruction, but opposed to gratuitous instruction.

Dr. Dollinger celebrated on the 15th of this month the fiftieth anniversary of his consecration as a priest. The King of Bavaria sent him the Order of Ludwig and a letter by his own hand, praising Professor Dollinger's life-long conscientiousness in the faithful fulfilment of his duties, and wishing that "God may still preserve him for a long time in his physical and mental vigour."

THE AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH.—Advices from Port Darwin of last Thursday state that the gap in the overland Austral telegraph is only 200 miles, and that a horse estafette is being organised. It is expected that the line will be completed from London to Adelaide by the end of July.

CANNON CONVERTED INTO CHURCH BELLS.—We learn from the *German Correspondent* that a large portion of the cannon captured from the French during the late war is by the Emperor's orders being converted into church bells. No less than twenty parishes on the Rhine, which were without bells, have been supplied from this source.

BRAHMO SOMAJ MARRIAGES.—Mr. Stephen's Bill for allowing people to contract legal marriages who have renounced the Hindoo or any other recognised religion to join some new sect, was passed by the Legislature on the 19th March. The *Indian Mirror*, the Brahmo organ, says,—"It is impossible to express in fitting terms the joy and enthusiasm which the consummation of this long-expected reform has awakened among us Brahmos, and the deep and lasting obligations towards the Government and Mr. Stephen."

THE FRENCH MENACES TO MADAGASCAR.—The Rev. Julius Kessler, late missionary in Madagascar, points out some inconsistencies in the recent Paris telegrams on this subject:—First, the French men-of-war are not stationed at Madagascar, but at Réunion; and secondly, there is no King of the Hovas, but only a Queen, whose husband is the Prime Minister. As far as I am aware, there has never been any ill-feeling against Roman Catholics, nor have I heard that their churches have been destroyed, or their missionaries ill-treated, and I think I am correct in stating that the natives of Madagascar have never attacked Europeans."

A SUBMISSIVE CHAMPION OF THE PAPACY.—The *Univers* publishes a note, signed by M. Louis Veuillot, in which he says that the words uttered by the Pope on the 13th inst., recommending charity to certain Catholics, must certainly be exclusively applied to him. M. Veuillot says he will obey, and will seek to effect the desired harmony; but if the Pope, who is the judge, considers that the work of the *Univers* can no longer have the character demanded by the interests of the Church, that work shall be terminated.

AN INTRUDER UPON THE POPE.—The *Giornale di Roma* relates a curious incident which occurred at the Vatican a few days back. A half-crazed lay schoolmaster, troubled with scruples of conscience, resolved to speak to the Pope in person, and, joining a deputation which was entering the palace, succeeded in passing the sentinel and attendants at the doors. He then concealed himself, and stayed for the rest of the day and all night in his hiding place, and early in the morning found means of introducing himself into the chamber of the Pope, who, on entering from a dressing-room, discovered the stranger on his knees in an attitude of supplication. His Holiness was greatly alarmed, and pulled his bell with impatience until assistance came and rid him of the intruder. Pius IX. afterwards remained for two days in a state of indescribable agitation.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE PONTIFICAL GOVERNMENT.—The Rome correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"Count d'Arnim, before taking leave of Cardinal Antonelli, was commissioned by Prince Bismarck to remonstrate with him upon the attitude of the Ultramontane party in Germany. It is said that Count d'Arnim acquitted himself conscientiously in the discharge of the duty imposed upon him by the German Chancellor, and lectured the Pope's Secretary of State with the utmost severity for three-quarters of an hour. He stated that the Papal Court, by permitting and even authorising the excesses of the Ultramontanes in all the countries of Europe, had forfeited the sympathies of every civilised government, and that it could now count upon none of them. He argued that if the Vatican did not desire to destroy the whole influence of the Church, it was absolutely necessary that it should reconcile itself to the ideas of liberty and progress without a regard for which no one could now rule any considerable nation." It is said that the Pope has been persuaded to fill up the vacancies in the College of Cardinals, which now number twenty-six or twenty-seven. Archbishop Manning is mentioned among the likely recipients of the Cardinal's hat.

THE MOABITE COUNTRY.—In a letter to the *Athenæum*, Mr. Burton, the well-known traveller, says he has heard from the Holy Land that the Rev. Dr. Tristram, Dr. Ginsburg, and party landed there on the last day of the last year. They expected hard work before they could even hope for success; and they found it harder than they expected. The people of Karak imprisoned them, and demanded a ransom of 500 napoleons, reduced to 50 napoleons. We are assured by Messrs. Tyrwhitt Drake and Palmer, that there does not exist another Moabite Stone above ground. But the ruined and buried cities of the trans-Jordanic region, showing vestiges far more venerable than those actually existing at Jerusalem, may be expected to yield, under systematic excavation, a peculiarly abundant harvest. The first discovery must always be looked upon as a distinct promise of future revelation. We are assured by the highest authority now living that the Assyrians, like the Portuguese in their golden age, were in the habit of erecting "padrões," that the Phœnicians inscribed their sarcophagi, and that even the Jews, perhaps, set up trophies for themselves. With him, we find the "inference inevitable, that this was the general custom among the Semitic nations inhabiting the country between the Mediterranean and Syria, and that, if we are to examine the countries adjoining Palestine and Syria, the country of the Ammonites and the country of the Moabites, we shall find similar monuments."

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THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING at the METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, Newington, next WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 1st.

ISAAC HOLDEN, Esq., of Bradford, will preside, and H. E. Crum-Ewing, Esq., M.P.; R. M. Carter, Esq., M.P.; Alfred Illingworth, Esq., M.P.; Duncan McLaren, Esq., M.P.; Edward Miall, Esq., M.P.; Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham; Neville Goodman, Esq., M.A., of Cambridge; the Rev. Dr. Landels, and the Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., have engaged to attend. To commence at Seven.

Tickets may be had of Mr. Blackshaw, Metropolitan Tabernacle; Mr. Buckmaster, High-street, Newington; Mr. Boot, 64, King William-street, E.C., and at Dockhead; Mr. Stow, 4, Camberwell-green; Mr. Stock, 62, Paternoster-row; Mr. Cousins, 95, St. Martin's-lane; and at the Society's Offices.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Surgeants' Inn, Fleet-street, E.C.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

Edited by EDWARD MIALL, Esq., M.P.

MAY MEETINGS AND SUPPLEMENTS.

The NONCONFORMIST of Thursday, May 2nd (instead of Wednesday), will contain Reports of the following Anniversaries:—Liberation Society (Council and Meeting in the Metropolitan Tabernacle), Baptist Union (adjourned), Baptist Missionary Society, Church, Wesleyan, and Primitive Methodist Missionary Societies.

*. With this Number will be given a Supplement containing a statement of the Objects and Resources of the various Religious and Philanthropic Societies, with the view of furnishing a bird's-eye view of their work, and, as far as possible, of the aggregate results.

The NONCONFORMIST of Wednesday, May 8th (with Supplement), will Report the Anniversaries of the following:—Bible Society, Sunday-school Union, Religious Tract Society, Irish Evangelical Society, British and Foreign School Society, and the Annual Session of the Congregational Union in London.

The NONCONFORMIST of Wednesday, May 15th (with Supplement), will Report the following Anniversaries:—Congregational Union (adjourned), London Missionary Society, and other Meetings.

The NONCONFORMIST of Wednesday, May 22nd, will Report the following Anniversaries:—Peace Society, Colonial Missionary Society, &c.

Each of these Numbers will contain Original Sketches of the May Meetings as they take place.

The Five Numbers will be forwarded on the receipt of 2s. 1d. in stamps. Early orders are requested.

*. Advertisements (if for the five Numbers at a reduced rate) received not later than the day before publication.

Arthur Miall, 18, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

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In future the *Nonconformist* will be supplied, post free, at the reduced price of

ONE GUINEA PER ANNUM,

to all subscribers who order the paper direct

from this office, and are willing to pay the amount in one sum in advance.

Those subscribers who prefer to remit half-yearly or quarterly will be supplied with the paper on the same terms as heretofore.

The half-yearly subscription is 12s.; quarterly, 6s.

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TO ADVERTISERS.

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*. As the Organ of a great and growing movement, the principal Weekly Journal among Dissenters, and a first-class Family Newspaper, the *Nonconformist* has become a very desirable medium for Advertisers. Since the beginning of 1872 there has been a large increase of Annual Subscribers as well as in the general circulation.

THE NONCONFORMIST is registered for transmission abroad.

In order that we may publish a report of the proceedings of the Council and public meeting of the Liberation Society, our next number will be postponed from Wednesday, May 1, to

THURSDAY, MAY 2.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1872.

SUMMARY.

THE proceedings of Parliament, as is usual at this season, are becoming more exciting, if not conducive to the progress of legislation. The signal defeat of the Government on the question of local taxation on Tuesday last week was followed on Thursday by a still more important reverse on the Ballot Bill; and a threatened Ministerial crisis this week has been averted under circumstances which we have explained below. Thursday's debate and division constituted the most memorable incident of the session. Ministers had adopted Mr. Leatham's amendment imposing a penalty of three months' imprisonment upon any elector who "wilfully" exposed his voting-paper after he had marked it, and before it could be deposited in the ballot-box. Upon this proposal issue was joined. A number of conspicuous Liberals, such as Sir G. Grey, Mr. Vernon Harcourt, Mr. Childers, and Mr. Gilpin, objected to so heavy a penalty, and in the end nearly forty supporters of the Government joined the Opposition in throwing out the proposal, which was rejected by a majority of 28. A storm of Conservative cheering followed the announcement of the division, but Mr. Gladstone disappointed his political foes by stating that he intended to proceed with the bill notwithstanding this serious blow. Eventually it was decided by a large majority that six months' imprisonment should be inflicted on any person who should induce a voter to display his paper—thus transferring the punishment from the intimidated to the intimidator. Obviously this provision will be inoperative. If the Government had proposed that the elector thus wilfully offending should lose his vote, they would not have run the risk of a defeat. On Monday the bill made considerable progress. That the dissatisfied Liberals had returned to their allegiance was manifest when Mr. Ward Hunt moved the omission of Clause 12, which provides that no voter shall be compelled to disclose his vote in any legal proceedings relating to the election. The amendment was rejected by a majority of 102, and thus the secrecy of the Ballot is preserved inviolate. It seems that the Government are resolved to push forward. Even the Scotch Education Bill is to be hung up till the Ballot Bill has left the House of Commons.

During the week there has been abundant information published relative to the Washington Treaty. We know substantially what is the nature of the counter-cases on both sides, but there is nothing in the American statement which leads to the expectation that the claims for consequential damages will be withdrawn. The rejoinder of Mr. Secretary Fish to Earl Granville's despatch is expected next Mond.y.

Our Government, while adhering to the policy already announced, decline to say whether the proceedings before the arbitrators at Geneva will be suspended unless the indirect claims are withdrawn; and Mr. Disraeli proposes on an early day to call attention to the subject in the House of Commons. The reticence of our Government is no doubt due to reasons which it is not politic publicly to explain. Mr. Fish has made some vague statements relative to the indirect claims to the Foreign Committee of the House of Representatives, but they were not important, though that committee are of opinion that the claims should not be pressed, as they are likely to prevent an amicable settlement of the differences between the two countries. Meanwhile the Republican organs in the United States are preparing the way for a retreat. The *New York Times* advocates a pacific arrangement, and the *Washington Evening Post* says the United States will sustain no loss of dignity if they recede from the consequential claims. "The best American jurists condemn them, Congress is almost unanimously opposed to them, and the mercantile community and the majority of the press wish them withdrawn. Only a mistaken pride and a false notion of dignity on the part of the Administration sustain them." In fact, opinion in America is generally coming round to that view. On the 1st of June the Republican Convention will be held at Philadelphia, and till then any decisive action on the part of the Washington Government cannot be expected. It is, however, generally acknowledged throughout the States that any rupture of the negotiations with England for the settlement of the Alabama difficulty would seriously militate against General Grant's chances of re-nomination as the Republican candidate for the Presidency. Surely, under such circumstances, it is not wise to goad on our Government to strong and irritating declarations.

We referred last week to the report in the *Daily Telegraph* of alleged extreme dissatisfaction at Berlin relative to the armaments of France. On Thursday our sensational contemporary followed this up with a leader, printed in the most conspicuous type, and written in a well-affected official style, declaring that Prince Bismarck had, through Count Arnim, sent an ultimatum to Paris, haughtily demanding that the military estimates of France should be reduced, or the German army should be mobilised and sent across the frontier, and stating that any resistance to its advance would be treated as a declaration of war! There being reason to suspect this angry feeling, the public were taken in by this circumstantial invention. The home funds were depressed, and foreign stocks tumbled down in London and all over the continent. Positive denials of any ill-feeling between Prince Bismarck and M. Thiers or that any message had been sent from Berlin, where Count Arnim still remained, were soon forthcoming; and the next day the victimised brokers publicly burned the *Daily Telegraph* at the Stock Exchange.

The *Telegraph* has left its correspondents to contradict the monstrous canard. The one in Paris not only denies its truth, but has been able—at least so it is reported—to interview M. Thiers on the subject. The President, we are told, affirms that he knows nothing of a message from Prince Bismarck. The two Governments since the close of the war "have never been more friendly than now." The French army is not for aggressive purposes, but to maintain order, as Prince Bismarck well knows. "All Europe," M. Thiers is reported to have said, "is interested in France being internally tranquil, and to maintain that peace we must have a comparatively large and a well-organised force, all the more so that there is now no longer a National Guard in the country. Individual Frenchmen may talk wildly about war and revenge, but what they say cannot in future be regarded as the sentiments of the Government or the opinions of the nation at large." This alleged statement of the President is almost as puzzling as the portentous announcement of the *Telegraph*. According to another account, M. Thiers sets it all down to the intrigues of the Bonapartists, who are anxious to embarrass the negotiations between Paris and Berlin. It is, however, somewhat significant that all idea of a transaction for hastening the departure of the German troops from the six occupied departments has been set aside, and that the discussion of the French army re-organisation scheme has been suddenly postponed for some weeks.

The German Catholic bishops assembled at Fulda do not seem disposed to yield an inch to Prince Bismarck. In a pastoral letter they declare that every priest has charge of the local inspection of the schools in his parish, and that he ought not to resign his office, even when

demands are made on him inconsistent with his priestly functions, without consultation with his bishop. These Ultramontane prelates are, to a certain extent, supported by the Evangelical clergy, who, at a recent conference, protested against the separation of the school from the church. The Prussian Government have evidently an arduous conflict still before them. In France the Catholic bishops have not lost heart. The new Archbishop of Paris, in defiance of the law, has taken upon himself to promulgate the dogma of infallibility, and directs that the decrees of the Vatican Council of 1870 shall be read and published; thus giving them the force of canonical law. Several Paris journals point out the illegality of this proceeding, since no ecclesiastical decrees from Rome can properly be published in France without the previous sanction of the State. But President Thiers is anxious to conciliate the Catholic hierarchy, and will probably take no notice of this infraction of the law.

SUDDEN FALL IN THE BAROMETER.

On Monday morning a portentous editorial leader in the *Daily News* sent down the political barometer to the point indicating "stormy." The Cabinet, we were told, had met on the previous Saturday, and had come to the decision that should the clauses of Mr. Fawcett's Dublin University Bill, which reconstruct the governing body of that institution, be sanctioned by the House of Commons on the following day, Mr. Gladstone would treat it as a vote of want of confidence in his administration, and surrender office. It was pretty well understood at the end of last week that the majority of the House would follow Mr. Fawcett into the lobby. The Prime Minister's announcements on the subject of the higher educational institutions of Ireland were generally deemed to have been oracular and vague, and the inferences drawn from this fact, as to his future policy in regard to the matter, were so unfavourable as to induce a large portion of his own followers to contemplate giving to Mr. Fawcett their unhesitating support. The *Daily News* drew a gloomy picture of the events which would follow. The Tories were to come into power, without a distinct pledge, or even a probability, of carrying Mr. Fawcett's bill through both Houses of Parliament. The Ballot Bill would be no more heard of. The Licensing Bill, the Mines Regulation Bill, and the Public Health Bill could scarcely be proceeded with, inasmuch as the few remaining weeks of the session would be devoted to the winding-up of necessary business preparatory to a dissolution. It was anticipated that a general election in the early summer might give the Conservatives a working majority, and that their tenure of power might possibly endure for some years to come. The result of these vaticinations was a general panic in the Liberal ranks, and unwonted animation in the interchange of ideas between member and member in the lobbies of the House of Commons on Monday evening.

In the course of the night, the impending thunder-cloud was so far dispersed as to relieve almost everybody of the sense of possible danger. It was felt by Liberal members, anxious, if possible, to prevent an immediate disruption of the Ministry and a collapse of the present Parliament, that their line of action must necessarily be guided by the principles which, on behalf of the Cabinet, the Marquis of Hartington, as Chief Secretary for Ireland, would have it in his power to announce as the basis of the future Ministerial plan for the final settlement of the question. It soon transpired that his statement would be of a nature to dispel the fears of the most timid in regard to the intentions of the Government. It was ascertained that they have not the remotest thought of endowing, either from national funds or from the property now in possession of Trinity College, Dublin, any denominational institution whatever, or of applying to schools or colleges the principle which they had repudiated in regard to Churches—namely, of concurrent endowment. Whatever may be the detailed plan they may adopt for carrying out the policy—and with regard to this they reasonably demand that they should be allowed to maintain silence until they can lay it as a formal measure before Parliament on their responsibility as a Cabinet—the object at which they will aim is this, that any man in Ireland shall have equal and unrestricted access to literary degrees, irrespectively altogether of his religious faith, or of the educational institution in which he had carried on his preparatory studies. These assurances, supported by undoubted authority, did much to calm down the excitement of the hour, and, of course, it became a question, not so much of principle, as of expediency, whether the advanced members

of the Liberal party would feel themselves bound to stand by Mr. Fawcett's plan this year, in preference to waiting for the Government plan to be propounded next session.

Should the question be brought to an issue before these words come under the eyes of our readers—for of necessity we write them in anticipation of the event—we venture to predict that the Ministers will obtain a considerable majority in support of the amendment they intend to propose to Mr. Fawcett's motion for going into committee on his bill. Lord Hartington will move that it be an instruction to the committee to divide the bill into two parts—the first relating to the abolition of all tests of a religious nature in Trinity College, Dublin, and the second relating to the future government of that institution. Her Majesty's Ministers will support the first, and will give their opposition to the last. If the statement of the Chief Secretary for Ireland be regarded as satisfactory by the Liberal members who have until now supported Mr. Fawcett, the greater number of them, we believe, will deem it unwise and impolitic to place the Government in a minority, in respect of a difference which involves no principle, which is one chiefly of constructive legislative skill, and which demands no immediate settlement. They will risk nothing important by a few months' delay, and will thereby avoid very serious complications.

We believe, moreover, that the Tories have not yet made up their minds that "the pear is ripe." It has been whispered that, in case Mr. Fawcett should force the House to a division, a considerable defection of Conservative votes in support of this bill will have to be counted on. Moreover, his place on the list of orders of the day renders it improbable that, except for the purpose of a decisive trial of strength between Government and its opponents on this matter, he will be able to obtain the assent of the House to take that precedence for his motion which will admit of its being fairly discussed. Our readers will see in our Postscript an account of what has actually happened. For our own part we expect that they will find the storm blown over, and, perhaps, a gradual but steady rise of the political barometer above "change," and approximating to "fair" weather.

"THE TWENTY-FIFTH CLAUSE."

LAST night the House of Commons, departing from its usual practice, debated two bills at the initial stage, instead of on the second reading; and, though in both cases there was strong opposition, one bill was introduced without a division, and leave to introduce the other was refused by a large majority. Mr. Candlish, however, was a gainer by the circumstance, to this extent, at least, that, whereas if he had been allowed to bring in his measure for repealing the twenty-fifth Clause of the Elementary Education Act, it was highly improbable that a time would be found for discussing it on the second reading; the question at issue has now been discussed, and, so far as this session is concerned, has been disposed of.

Mr. Candlish, in submitting his motion, did what some of those who followed him refrained from doing, viz., confined himself exclusively to the one point with which he proposed to deal—the power now given to school boards to add to the public money already received by denominational schools the fees for children whose parents cannot, from their poverty, pay those fees themselves. He entered into no general disquisition on the merits, or demerits, of the Act of 1870, but wisely confined himself to a succinct statement of the objections taken to a particular clause. As he pointed out, the Government not only had not expected that the operation of the clause would be what it has been, but it was opposed to the intention, expressed by the Prime Minister in 1870, of severing the connection between the boards and the denominational schools originally contemplated by the bill. He pointed out that the clause involved forced contributions from ratepayers to support religious teaching of which they disapproved, and ridiculed the idea that such an arrangement was essential to the existence of religious liberty. He also laid great stress upon the bitterness and contention which this fee question occasioned, and particularly described the difficulties which it had created in his own borough of Sunderland—difficulties which would occasion a fresh disturbance at every municipal election. In the face of such results, he urged the Vice President of the Council not to delay, even for a year, an alteration which, it was admitted, must take place.

The opposition to Mr. Candlish's motion was led by Mr. Collins, who, with great vigour and volubility, contended that this clause was not the small matter that it was represented to be—that it was in strict consistency with all the rest

of the Act—that, if Mr. Candlish's objections were good for anything, they were just as good against the denominational grant, or the payment of Roman Catholic chaplains in gaols, and that if this clause were expunged the poor would be treated worse than criminals, because they would have but one sort of schools to which to send their children. Finally, he explained that he opposed the introduction of the bill because the question had been settled for this session by the rejection of Mr. Dixon's motion, and "what was the use of having rules, if a question which had been thoroughly thrashed out at the commencement of a session, might be revived again a few weeks afterwards?"

Notwithstanding this last allegation, Mr. Powell followed, with a speech of equal length, delivered in a mechanically monotonous tone, in which he insisted on the necessity for religious teaching—declared that "freedom in a matter of that magnitude and sanctity was the right of the English parent"—that a purely secular system would involve a perpetual struggle, and that the Act of 1870 must be adhered to both in spirit and in letter. With greater relevancy, Mr. Dixon spoke to the one point before the House, and judiciously addressed himself to the Vice-President of the Council, whom he urged to reconsider his decision not to touch the clause till next year; for the grievance, if allowed to continue, would produce feelings of animosity constantly increasing in intensity.

The first words of Mr. Forster, who next rose, seemed to indicate that, in response to the appeal of the last speaker, the Minister was about to make a conciliatory speech; for he expressed a hope that Mr. Candlish would be allowed to bring in his bill without a vote being taken upon it. But then his second sentence destroyed the hope excited by his first; for, he continued, if there were to be a division, "the Government would be misleading the House and the country if they did not vote against the introduction of the measure." He, too, deprecated a fresh discussion on a question so lately debated, and then, in his usual vein, he expressed a hope that the good work which had been undertaken by the school boards would not be interfered with, and especially eulogised the London Board for their gallant exertions. He insisted that, if there is to be compulsion, there must be an allowance to parents of every reasonable excuse, and that it would be hard not to allow them a choice of schools. To repeal the clause would be simply to make compulsion impossible, and he hoped next year to make that general. Then, with characteristic optimism, he expressed his belief that there did not now exist as much ill-feeling in regard to the 25th Clause as there had been; for, notwithstanding all the discussion raised respecting it, "the work of supplying the means of education was going on." He admitted the force of the temptation which Mr. Dixon's appeal presented to the Government, but still thought that any attempt even to modify the clause at the present moment would be premature. At the year's end the Government would have larger experience, which would suggest how they should deal with the question. Mr. Forster, it must be admitted, took care that, if any false hopes were excited by his promises in regard to the future, he should not be held responsible for them. For he declared that he should deem it to be his duty, in any event, to adhere to the principle that parents should have the choice of schools where there were several elementary schools from which to choose, though he admitted, as he has done before, that there are many places where the choice is impossible. The only specific change to which he pointed was one having in view a check upon the extravagance of the school boards in some places. Finally, he declared that the Government desired to meet the conscientious objections of the opponents of the clause, but they could do it only with a due regard to the conscientious objections of parents.

The rest of the discussion need not be described in detail. Mr. Beresford Hope was as grotesque, and even more offensive than usual in his treatment of those who differed from him; whom, in this case, he described as "these hard-mouthed agitators"—these "political secularists" whose bigotry was greater than that of the Pope. Mr. Miall protested against these aspersions of men who were quite as anxious as anybody else for the religious education of the people, but thought that it should be imparted by religious persons, and not by schoolmasters for whose religious character there could be no guarantee. Sir C. Adderley objected to any alteration of the Education Act, either now or next year. Mr. Mundella, on the other hand, was willing that the Twenty-fifth Clause should be modified, because it in-

terfered with popular education; while Lord Frederick Cavendish contributed this practical suggestion:—

Assuming that the education of each child cost 20s. a year, why should not a rule be laid down that no more than 15s. should be defrayed from the rates, and that the remaining 5s. should be contributed by subscribers? They could not expect to retain the management of schools unless they subscribed to them, and it might be understood that their subscriptions covered the cost of the religious instruction.

He further suggested that the fees might be paid by Boards of Guardians, though he added that gratuitous education tended to pauperise the parents.

There being no disposition on either side to avert a division, the House—thinly attended all the evening, but now pretty full—divided; the question when put by the Speaker having been followed by a "No" from the opponents of the motion which, for its depth and volume, was positively "prodigious."

The division, which, of course, resulted in the defeat of Mr. Candlish's motion, is interesting only when compared with that on Mr. Dixon's recent motion, which was supported by 94 votes against 355. Last night Mr. Candlish had 115 votes, and his opponents 316. In that respect there was progress, but it would be vain to conceal the fact that, as regards both the Government and a large section of the Liberal party, the opponents of the worst features of the Education Act have still work to do, which will test to the utmost both their courage and their endurance.

SPAIN AND CUBA.

In a very interesting and able speech Mr. Thomas Hughes has fastened the attention of the House of Commons upon the fact that in Cuba the Spanish Government has been, and still is, false to her treaty obligations with Great Britain. The attempt of Lord Enfield to prove the contrary, or rather to suggest that Spanish want of good faith is confined to a small class of *emancipados* who are admittedly entitled to their freedom, is a piece of Foreign Office casuistry which a brief explanation will suffice to expose. Lord Enfield acknowledges that from 1853 to 1868 upwards of 40,000 slaves were annually imported into Cuba. This alone represents an aggregate in excess of the present slave population of Cuba; and therefore nothing is more certain than that if the British Government insisted upon the liberation of all the negroes who have been landed in the island in violation of the Treaties of 1817 and 1835, the institution of slavery in Cuba would cease to exist. Lord Enfield does not deny that Great Britain possesses the right to enforce a policy which would result in general emancipation. He simply evades that question, and endeavours to lead the House of Commons to suppose that our legal right of interference with domestic slavery in Cuba is limited to the captured negroes called *emancipados*. All that the Under-Secretary said with regard to the treatment of these unhappy victims of Spanish perfidy is perfectly true; but we must not allow our sympathy with them to blind us to the duty we owe to the general body of the black population in Cuba. Having been stolen from Africa and surreptitiously conveyed to the Antilles in defiance of our treaties with Spain, the latter and their descendants are entitled to immediate freedom; they virtually occupy the position, as Mr. Edmund Sturge points out, of wards of the British Government; and we therefore cannot, without a flagrant disregard of the obligations we have voluntarily assumed, affect to regard them as beyond our protection. The position in this matter which has been taken up by the Anti-Slavery Society and the friends of Cuba is logically unassailable; and consequently Lord Enfield, in defining what he calls "the exact treaty obligations of Spain," states less than half the truth.

The Under-Secretary, at the close of his speech, gave a clue to the real motive of the policy which Great Britain is now pursuing towards Spain. We must remember, he said, "the immense difficulties" in which the Spanish Government is placed. We do remember these "immense difficulties," but we also do not forget that Spain is responsible both for their existence and their perpetuation. The Cubans imitated the example of the mother country by endeavouring to cast off the yoke of military tyranny which they had borne for generations. They were quite willing to remain subjects of the Peninsula Government, if only their municipal and political rights were secured to them; but no party in Spain—except an insignificant minority—has ever proposed any concession which a people desiring to be free could possibly accept. At one time they were offered a repre-

sentation of Cuba in the Cortes, but this measure, unaccompanied by the guarantee of local self-government, would have been to the last degree illusory. But at the present moment Spain offers to the Cubans nothing but the sword. She will hold no terms with "rebels," and a King who is himself the creature of a revolution declares that his heart is with the brave volunteers of Havana, and that, if he consulted his own wishes, he would place himself at their head. Thus the dismal tragedy is only to be played out amid scenes of carnage and blood, and with the addition of outrages upon women and children which cry aloud to Heaven for vengeance. We sicken at the compliments which, at such a moment, English statesmen and English newspapers are content to pay to a man who, for the sake of conciliating a bloodthirsty public opinion, is willing, not only to exterminate the Cubans, but to sacrifice many more thousands of the ill-starred youth of Spain.

If the English Foreign Office could rise to the dignity of its own position, and properly interpret the feeling of the country, it would counsel Spain to terminate the war by means very different from those which she has hitherto employed. It would invite the active co-operation of the Government at Washington, and thus create a real alliance between two nations which, although diplomatically at variance, desire at heart to find a common bond of union. In the meanwhile, Spain has resolved to make another desperate effort to subjugate Cuba. The force by which she seeks to accomplish this object includes 59,000 regular troops, 60,000 volunteers, and fifty vessels of war, mounting 209 guns; and despatches have been lately addressed to the Captain-General, directing him to employ every man at his disposal to suppress the insurrection before the hot weather sets in. In the month of May yellow fever begins to play havoc with the Spanish troops; all active military operations are necessarily suspended; and for six months the Cubans are free to harass their enemies and to recover the ground which they have lost during the winter campaign. Does the most credulous believer in Havana bulletins of victory imagine that an insurrection which has endured for four years will collapse in the single month which is all that remains to the Captain-General before the pestilence again decimates his unseasoned levies? It is impossible to doubt that the experience of past years will be repeated, and that after another twelve months of war Spain will be brought no nearer to the conquest of Cuba.

Simultaneously with the talk about the abolition of slavery in the Antilles, the Spaniards are reviving the coolie trade. Mr. Hughes justly animadverted upon the brutal edicts by which the Captain-General has virtually decreed the enslavement of every Chinaman in Cuba, and he also denounced the no less brutal sale of Chinese immigrants by companies or associations organised for the purpose of importing coolies. Mr. Cave, the impartiality of whose testimony no one will venture to deny, declared that, "a very large slave traffic was carried on from China to Cuba"; and that, although originally securities were taken for the fair treatment of the Chinese, they are now degraded to the level of slaves. Lord Enfield, in a former debate, was eloquent upon the high wages which Chinese cooks received in Havana; but he was silent as to the treatment of the tens of thousands of Celestials who are employed as field hands, and as to the startling number of suicides which are known to take place among this class of labourers. It is only too manifest that the Foreign Office stands in need of a good deal of that outside pressure which a free people can always bring to bear upon any department of the State, and we hope that during the next few months that pressure will be vigorously applied.

The brewers of the United Kingdom paid 399,576l. 11s. 6d. for their licences last year.

DEGREES AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—The graduation ceremony in connection with Edinburgh University took place on Friday, in the General Assembly Hall. Lord Justice-General Inglis, the Chancellor, presided. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. John Kennedy, Stepney, London; Rev. Hugh Martin, Free Church, Lasswade; Rev. Robert Moffat, the celebrated African missionary, who was loudly cheered; and Rev. R. H. Stephenson, Moderator of the General Assembly. The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Sir Robert Christison; Mr. Hugh Munro, professor of Latin, Cambridge University; Mr. Henry James Stephens Smith, professor of geometry, Oxford; Mr. William Smith, vice-president of Edinburgh Philosophical Institution; and Mr. John Veitch, professor of logic, Glasgow University. The degree of M.A. was afterwards conferred on 47 students.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Monday.

The outside world apparently did not understand that anything very important was going to happen last Thursday night. There was no particular pressure on the galleries appropriated to strangers, and the reporters' gallery, which is generally crammed when a great debate is expected, was occupied by no more than the ordinary staff. But the House was perfectly aware that a crisis was at hand, for it was crowded to excess. There had been a most strenuous Conservative whip, and the Conservative members were brought from the uttermost parts of the earth to oppose Mr. Leatham's amendment making secret voting compulsory. After the usual preliminary business had been despatched, Mr. Forster rose and announced that the amendment would be adopted by the Government. I never heard him speak with greater feelingness. Considering the gravity of the step he was taking, considering that the amendment—whether good or bad—was a great policy, he ought to have been pronounced, eager, and argumentative in his advocacy of it. But he hesitated, stumbled, and spoke with such a cowed apologetic air that he absolutely invited the derisive cheers which broke out from the Conservative party at almost every other sentence. Believing as I did most thoroughly in the amendment, it was nevertheless almost impossible to help joining with the Tories in their scoffing laughter, so completely did Mr. Forster deserve it. I may here observe that although Mr. Forster ought now to understand his bill as well as any man in England, he has never understood it, or at least he has never understood the ballot, and his want of proper understanding was the cause of his painful weakness on this particular occasion. Mr. Vernon Harcourt was sitting on the front bench below the gangway, and what he thought of Mr. Forster was plainly evident by the manner in which he accompanied every word, either by significant smiles, or tossing the head, or by some other dramatic gesture. The moment his turn came he jumped up and delivered himself of a most bitter, brilliant, and most sophistical criticism of the amendment and the Government. Sophistical, that is to say, at every point excepting one. He was perfectly justified in asking why the Government, if they thought the amendment to be of such consequence, had not put it in the bill. The Tories, of course, applauded him with the whole strength of the lungs. He turned on Mr. Dixon, and said that that gentleman owed the House of Lords a humble apology for not passing a bill which did not contain a provision which was now declared to be essential. The ballot he defined as the power given to a man to vote as he pleased. He objected to the attempt to put down intimidation by prosecuting the person intimidated. He would prosecute the person intimidating. If a man beat his wife, we did not punish the wife, but the husband. Each of these, and a dozen other little epigrammatic fallacies, were accepted by gentlemen opposite with immense enthusiasm, which for the time no doubt supported Mr. Harcourt considerably, but of which I fancy, before the evening was at an end, he was not over-conceited. I suppose everybody knows the temptation to be attractive and smart in a miscellaneous company of idle people, and how disagreeable is the recollection the next morning of the folly of the evening before. Something of this kind Mr. Harcourt must have felt the next day. Tory cheers to a Liberal member are very stimulating while they last, but like other stimulants, they are apt to beget a sinking at the stomach and general depression when the first effect has passed away. The next sensation was created by Sir George Grey and Mr. Childers, both of whom went against the amendment. Mr. Childers counselled Mr. Leatham to withdraw. At this I suspected, as Mr. Fawcett from his looks plainly suspected, that Mr. Childers desired to save the Government and to open a back door by which they might retreat. They had gone, however, too far; and Mr. Gladstone moreover believed—so I am told at least—that he could win. He certainly took frequent counsel with Mr. Glyn, who seemed tolerably confident. Mr. Bouverie then turned against his party with immense and unusual vehemence. I never saw him in such a state of passionate excitement before. He was almost beside himself, and literally jumped up and down, as he tried to find expression for his wrath. He drew a frightful picture of the consequences which would ensue if the amendment were carried. It had always been our custom to display our colours, and to proclaim our opinions openly. We were henceforth to be sent to the treadmill for doing it. It would be necessary to put police-

constables in the polling-booths with a plentiful supply of handcuffs, and to keep the prison van outside waiting to take away to prison the scores of British voters who would break the law. This very stogy oration completely carried the Conservatives off their heads, and they roared again. Alas for Mr. Bouverie! it was all the simplest, the most unadulterated bunkum. Mr. Leatham was not so stupid as to propose that the publication of opinions should be penal. What he wanted to do was to prevent the voter from being able to prove in what way he had voted. The support which Mr. Leatham received was not very powerful. Mr. James certainly was powerful in a certain sense—that is to say he displayed considerable muscular energy—but the House of Commons is not an Old Bailey jury, as many lawyers seem to imagine, and furthermore Mr. James failed, as all lawyers fail, by failing to produce the conviction that they are anything better than advocates. The best thing perhaps which Mr. James said, was that Mr. Vernon Harcourt's opposition to the amendment was entirely due to his anxiety to make a speech against creating new misdemeanours. The House had now become very stormy, and there were loud cries for a division. Mr. Gladstone therefore wound up the debate. He was not altogether himself, but was rather half-hearted. Perhaps he may not have been well. Still he did say, and with some force too, what Mr. Forster did not say, and ought to have said. He dexterously refrained from showing the least irritation at the excited rhetoric of Mr. Harcourt and Mr. Bouverie, and in fact contrived to pump cold water effectively upon those two gentlemen. With regard to the wife-beating illustration, he cleverly retorted that it was altogether inapplicable, and that if a penalty inflicted on the wife would save her from a beating, and a penalty on the husband would not save her, she ought to be punished. There were one or two attempts to get a hearing after Mr. Gladstone had finished, but they were unimportant, and Mr. Bonham-Carter was enabled to put the question. There was a great shout of "No"—far stronger than the "Aye"—from the Liberal side; but then "No" is a much easier word to say than "Aye," and can be said with much greater vehemence. Strangers were ordered to withdraw, the division bells rang, the door was duly slammed, and the question was once more put. The second time the "No" was stronger still. Members then retired to the lobbies, and in the course of ten minutes began to return. For about a quarter of an hour nobody knew what the result would be, but at last Mr. Kinnaird came in, and with his usual and Athenian desire to communicate news, whether good or bad, he went over to the Conservative side, where Mr. Lowther was sitting, and whispered something. Instantly there was a general illumination of the faces of gentlemen who sat anywhere in that region, and a murmur of "twenty-four," "thirty," "forty," arose all over the House. Presently the tellers made their way through the crowd, and when the clerk at the table gave to Mr. Harcourt the paper containing the state of the poll, there was such a yell of Tory triumph that it might, I should think, have been heard at Westminster Abbey. Cheers succeeded cheers, round after round, so that it was impossible for the tellers to announce the numbers. Mr. Collins seemed to act as fagman, a post for which he is well adapted. At the close, when his friends were tired, he had a cheer all to himself. I should hardly have thought it possible for any political event to produce such emotion. As soon as the tellers informed the House what the majority was, Mr. Collins and his friends repeated their performance. The curtain was not yet to fall. Everybody was anxious to know whether Government would now go on with the bill, and Mr. Osborne asked Mr. Gladstone if he would not abandon it. Mr. Gladstone essayed to reply, but as there was no question before the committee, he could not get a hearing, and the clamour with which he was confronted drowned his voice altogether. The chairman was irresolute and timid, hardly knowing what to do with such a turbulent mob. The probability is, I think, that he would have been fairly beaten if Sir George Grey had not interfered and suggested that the next amendment should be put immediately. This was done, and then Mr. Gladstone once more rose, and with great good humour explained that he saw no reason for abandoning the bill; that the Government, on the contrary, would go forward with increased vigour, and hoped to carry it through. Thereupon the House slowly separated after the most remarkable scene which we have had this session. The bill has received a blow which, in my humble opinion, is fairly chargeable not so much to the Tories, or to Mr. Harcourt,

as to Mr. Forster. In the first place, if the amendment was of any value it should not to have been left to a private member to propose it. Mr. Forster ought to have seen its necessity last autumn, and should have put it in the bill. In the next place, he managed to convey to the committee that he did not care about the amendment. Thirdly, I believe, and others more learned than myself in ballot mechanics believe, that he might by proper inquiry have rendered the amendment altogether unnecessary by a simple plan which would have made it physically impossible for the voter to prove his vote. Lastly, he might have accepted Mr. Leatham's amendment without the crushing penalty. It was not the amendment itself, but the penalty, which frightened members.

Mr. Miall's motion is fixed for the 17th May. My readers may probably wonder why it is so long postponed, but it should be borne in mind that private members are not in the same position as the Government, and cannot select any night they please. When a private member wishes to bring a motion before the House, he usually submits to a ballot, which determines the order of time in which his motion is to stand on the notice-paper as compared with others. Those who do not submit to the ballot must simply take their chance. The motion which is drawn first at any particular ballot of course has priority over the other motions balloted with it, but it does not by any means follow that the mover of this motion is able to take the first place on the next Tuesday or Friday—Tuesdays and Fridays being the only days at the service of private members. Every Tuesday and Friday may be occupied for some weeks to come; that is to say, the list for those days may for some weeks be so full that it is useless to add to it. Mr. Miall's motion has been balloted, and he has taken, I understand, the first Friday on which it will be the first notice of motion. It is not a very desirable day, as it is the day of the adjournment for the Whitsuntide holidays, but it was the best that could be obtained. Mr. Miall will try another ballot, I believe, and if so, I hope he will succeed in securing some Tuesday, when there will be a fuller House.

MEN AND THINGS IN AMERICA.

(By a Cosmopolitan.)

REMARKABLE UTTERANCES.

Two remarkable men have recently made statements which demand more attention than they have hitherto received on either side of the Atlantic. Wendell Phillips, the great iconoclast of slavery, has won a name in history alongside of that of William Lloyd Garrison. What George Thompson was to the abolition movement in England, Wendell Phillips was to that in the United States. A man of an eloquence unsurpassed, and with an intellect of gigantic power, Mr. Phillips has been the apostle and prophet of regenerated America. Triumphant in his crusade against slavery, he is now devoting his splendid talents to the advancement of the poor and lowly. Sometimes Quixotic, and a trifle visionary, his Quixotism is that of a noble and chivalric nature. Standing entirely aloof from a career of political power, he is nevertheless a power in politics. At times he may be mistaken in his theories, but he is totally incapable of misrepresenting facts.

Wendell Phillips recently visited the city of Troy, in New York State, and during an interview with Mr. E. H. G. Clark, of that city, he made some statements worthy of note. In a letter to the *Troy Whig*, Mr. Clark, who is himself an author and lecturer of some celebrity, thus records Mr. Phillips's explanation of the animosity between Charles Sumner and President Grant:—

"Well," said Mr. Phillips, "you know, for instance, that Sumner and Fish—Secretary Fish—have always been friends and companions. For years, Sumner has stayed at Fish's house whenever in New York. They have been personal cronies. Early in Sumner's opposition to the annexation of San Domingo, Fish came to him one day, and urged him to take the English mission, as the man knowing most about the questions needing settlement between America and Great Britain. Mr. Sumner immediately saw that the purpose was to get him out of the Senate, and he told Mr. Fish that he felt the need of remaining at his post. The conversation lasted two hours or more, when Sumner finally got up and said, 'But, Fish, you haven't given one reason why Motley should come home; and I think, with your position and record, you should say to the President that you would not be a party to his recall.' This conversation ended with some irritation. Presently it was announced that Motley had to be recalled, because dangerously influenced by Sumner. But if Motley was dangerous at St. James's on account of Sumner, Mr. Sumner naturally thought that he should have been no less dangerous there himself. So it seemed to him that Grant and Fish had not treated him honourably, but with duplicity; and Sumner is so truthful himself—so organised indeed—that he can have no political trust in anything but personal honesty."

I have in a previous article mentioned the current rumours as to General Grant's habits. The following from such a man as Wendell Phillips is more than ordinarily significant:—

"And so it was," continued Mr. Phillips, in regard to the interview between Sumner and Grant. Sumner tells me that when he went to Grant with Col. Forney, the President was not in condition to know him; and, on retiring, Forney laughed, and asked what could have been the matter with the President's faculties. Sumner will not positively say that Grant was drunk, but he does insist that the President could not possibly have told what took place at that interview so clearly as he can do himself."

Mr. Clark says that he then remarked, "Well, Mr. Phillips, I have got over caring much about the personal characteristics of political leaders. To me they are merely representative. I look at their work." To this Mr. Phillips made a reply which is probably the most truthful estimate of the President's character ever made:—

"Right, wholly right," he answered; "and, regarding Grant, I suppose, as Lincoln did, where his kind of whisky could be got for other people? As for myself, my friends have laughed at me for my confidence in Grant, not for my want of it. George Wilkes says I have got Grant on the brain. I like his clinching the nail for the negro. I like his Indian policy. There is statesmanship in these things. And I don't believe he is dishonest in money—that he has ever stolen a dollar, though I am told he is worth more than half a million. He has a ring of sharpers around him, I have no doubt. This would be the case with any President just after a great war like ours; and political corruption permeates every party and everything at Washington."

A man very different to Wendell Phillips is Henry A. Wise, ex-Governor of Virginia, and the Nestor of the statesmen of the Old Dominion. Governor Wise will be remembered in connection with the raid of Old John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Wise was then ruler of a slave State, and among the foremost champions of the slave system. During the rebellion he was a leading secessionist. He has, however, seen cause in his old age to alter some of his most cherished opinions. In a recent lecture in Richmond Governor Wise said:—

He attributed the present deplorable enervation of the energies of the South to the influences of slavery, which had so long been a blight upon the manufacturing and commercial interests of the section, and said that in whatever light the Southern people might regard the men who compassed the Union armies, the latter were the instruments in the hand of God who compassed the overthrow of African slavery, and thus made the way clear for the resuscitation and recuperation of the Southern half of the Union.

It does one's heart good to find such a man as Henry A. Wise thus frankly acknowledging the sin and wickedness of slavery. It is a fact significant and hopeful for humanity when we find great Southern statesmen becoming so truly enlightened. Considering how recently slavery has fallen, is it not wonderful? May we not hope that in the Great Hereafter "Ossawatimie," Brown, the "Hero of Harper's Ferry," and Governor Wise may meet to rejoice together in the final fall of the iniquitous Slave Power? May we not all thank God and take courage as we witness the marvellous events which He has brought to pass? Truth is mighty and does prevail!

THE PROFESSOR AND HIS FISHES.—A great disaster has befallen science, a copper barrel filled with alcohol, in which Professor Agassiz had stored his numerous specimens of hitherto undescribed fishes, having been broken open by the too zealous cook of an establishment at which he was staying at Rio Janeiro, and all the rare fishes taken out and fried for the professor's breakfast.

"CONSERVATIVE REACTION" EXPLAINED.—With reference to the action of the publicans at elections, a correspondent of the *Times* furnishes the following statistics of all the contested elections that have taken place since 1868. The elections above the line occurred before, those below after, the introduction of Mr. Bruce's bill:—

Liberals lose		Tories lose	
Bridgwater	2	Beverley	2
Cashel	1	Sligo	1
Dumfriesshire	2	Horsham	1
Stafford	2	Dublin	2
Wareham	2	Bewdley	2
Glasgow University	2	Norwich	2
Southwark	2	Taunton	2
Isle of Wight	2	London	2
Shrewsbury	2	Nottingham	2
Colchester	2	Bridgnorth	2
Newry	2	Stalybridge	2
Hereford	2		
Durham	2		
Surrey (East)	2		
Truro	2		
Plymouth	2		
Yorkshire (West Riding, Northern Division)	2		
Notts (North)	2		
Tamworth	2		
Total	37	Total	20

Thus, before the introduction of the bill the Liberals had lost only three votes. Since its introduction they have lost seven seats, or fourteen votes.

Literature.

PROFESSOR AND MRS. FAWCETT'S
ESSAYS.*

The publication of this volume by Mr. Fawcett and his accomplished wife is most opportune, for all the questions with which it deals are now prominently before the public; while as regards several of them it is admitted that early legislative action should be taken. On the reasonable assumption that large numbers of thoughtful men and women will read these Essays and Lectures in their collected form, it would not be easy to exaggerate the importance of the educational work which they are calculated to accomplish. Whether they command the absolute assent of the reader or not, it will be impossible for him to withhold from the authors a tribute of his respect for the singular good faith, ability, and clearness with which they have grappled with several of the most important social problems of the day. After reading so many essays which are crowded with brilliant sophisms, or in which the literary posture-monger invites the public to admire the skill and grace of his movements, it is refreshing to turn over the pages of a work which is written, not to produce a sensation or to illustrate one more phase of intellectual egotism, but to give in terse, vigorous, well-chosen language the best fruits of two logical and sympathetic minds.

In the recent debate on Mr. Baillie Cochran's motion about the "International," Mr. Fawcett delivered a speech which, without containing a word that could justly offend a single human being, was a hundredfold more damaging to the economic fallacies which Dr. Karl Marx and his colleagues are endeavouring to impose on the workmen of England, than all the declamations of Tory orators. The reason was that the latter employed the language of invective, while the member for Brighton was content to use only the weapons of argument. This he has also done with more elaboration in his lecture on "Modern Socialism," which is especially valuable as tracing the causes which have induced so many English workmen to identify themselves with extreme continental theories. Historically, he regards the Poor-law as being largely responsible for the creation of that feeling of reliance on Government interference and State-aid which has induced large numbers of workmen to demand the nationalisation of land, the shortening of the hours of labour, the establishment of a gratuitous system of education, and State co-operative and industrial associations. He apprehends—not without reason—that the growing tendency to rely upon the State is fraught with danger to the interests of England; for if the working classes become generally infected with the economic heresies of the International Association, the effect must be to supply the two great parties in the country with a powerful motive for throwing over the counsels of prudence, and yielding to demands which at heart they know it would be impolitic to grant.

In another lecture Mr. Fawcett presents a view of what he calls, "the general aspects of State intervention." Following up and illustrating his main principle, which is that grown men and women should learn the duty of self-help, he yet naturally qualifies it so far as to allow "that it is quite as desirable to pass a law limiting the number of hours which a child is permitted to work as it would be undesirable to impose similar restrictions upon men and women." Perhaps the learned professor would be prepared to go a step further, and to admit that there may be special circumstances in the condition of certain abject classes of the population which would justify exceptional interference on the part of the State for their protection and relief; but his general argument is a sound one, especially when viewed in connection with his courageous proposals for the abolition of all those laws and legal customs which tend to perpetuate a pariah class. One of his Cambridge lectures is a closely reasoned and thoroughly convincing argument against the regulation of the hours of labour by the State. He shows how impossible it is for any Legislature "to frame a measure which, whilst making proper allowance for the varying circumstances of different trades, would fix an appropriate limit to the day's work in each particular branch of industry." The absurdity of such a measure is sufficiently illustrated by the fact that the leaders of the nine hours movement at Newcastle recognised "the principle that overtime was to be paid for

"on a liberal scale." Upon this Mr. Fawcett points out:—

"That in thus sanctioning overtime, every argument which might be advanced in favour of regulating the hours of labour by State intervention falls to the ground. The law might be so easily evaded and ignored, that it would soon be regarded as a useless and ridiculous farce. Suppose, for instance, the Legislature should say that in a certain trade, such as building, a day's work should consist of only nine hours. Employers and operatives who desired to continue work for a longer time would not have the slightest difficulty in doing so. They would simply have to consider each hour beyond the specified period as overtime, and the law would consequently be as completely inoperative as if it had never been passed."

Mr. Fawcett also discusses the case of the agricultural labourers; and—we are glad to find—recommends a system of co-operative farming, based upon the experiment which was successfully made in Norfolk by the late Mr. Gurdon, of Ossington. He is of opinion that Mr. Forster's Education Act will do next to nothing for education in the rural districts; and that until the principle of compulsion is applied to those districts, no sensible improvement in their educational condition will ever take place:—

"Those who are ignorant rarely appreciate the advantages of education, and those who have retained no benefit from attending school will scarcely think it worth their while to spend any extra wages in keeping their children at school a greater number of years. By those in whom the nobler of human instincts have never been developed, wealth will not be regarded as bringing with it the opportunity of enjoying rational and intellectual pleasures; it will be used, as we know it is used, not so much to improve the lot of those now living, as to bring into the world an augmented population to live the life of those who have gone before them. Leisure is a priceless blessing to those who possess some mental cultivation, but it hangs heavily on the hands of those who are as uneducated as our agricultural labourers. I remember one winter's evening calling on one of these labourers about seven o'clock; I found him just going to bed. On being asked why he did not sit up an hour or two longer, he said, in a tone of peculiar melancholy which I can never forget, 'My time is no use to me. I can't read. I have nothing to do, and so it is no use burning fire and candle for nothing.' When I reflected that this was a man endowed by nature with no ordinary intellectual power, I thought what a satire his words were upon our vaunted civilisation."

The incident is a simple one, but it will be full of significance to those who believe that much of the misery which exists in the country is directly traceable to the ignorance of the labouring classes. Mr. Fawcett recommends—and with good reason—that a modification of the Factory Acts shall be applied to the agricultural districts. The superior condition of the Northumbrian peasant has not escaped his attention; and we need not say that he advocates that system of migration to the northern counties which has been already successfully tried by Canon Girdlestone, and which, if properly organised, would greatly tend to remove the inequalities existing in the southern parts of England. He points out that as matters stand—

"Wages in such counties as Dorsetshire are not so much regulated by demand and supply, as by what the farmer thinks his labourers can just live upon. A striking corroboration of this melancholy fact is afforded by the circumstance that wages in the counties where the lowest wages prevail rise and fall with the price of wheat. When bread is very dear, farmers come to the conclusion that a labourer with a family cannot live upon the amount he is earning, and by a tacit though general agreement, wages are raised. This is an exact description of the manner in which wages were in the winter of 1867-8 advanced from 9s. to 10s. in the south-west of England. When farmers make the calculation just described, they do not forget to take account of the children's earnings: if therefore, these earnings were somewhat diminished by legislation, the minimum upon which the labourer is supposed to be able to live would have to be augmented, and he would not suffer."

Mrs. Fawcett's contributions to this volume include essays and lectures on education, the electoral and other disabilities of women, and Mr. Hare's scheme of proportional representation, an ingenious modification of which latter proposal will shortly be submitted to the House of Commons by Mr. Walter Morrison. Incidentally she inveighs against our poor law system, the radical vices of which have never been more powerfully exposed than by her husband and herself. The general reader will, however, be more attracted towards the lectures in which she ably pleads for the civil and political equality of her own sex; and in which also, while not forgetting the lighter weapons of satire, she relies mainly upon the logic of fact and experience. The truth and good sense of the following extract many of our readers will be able to confirm:—

"If I were asked to name the most orderly, neat, bright, and best managed houses that I am acquainted with, I should name those which are respectively presided over by women whose names are justly celebrated for their achievements in literature and science, or for their activity in promoting educational and social reform. Perhaps my experience is exceptionally favourable, but I do not think I know one distinguished woman whose home does not do credit to her taste, refinement, and love of order. I do not therefore think, the plea that the franchise would withdraw

women from their domestic duties is a valid objection to their enfranchisement."

In refuting the so-called arguments of opponents like Mr. Bouverie, who allege that if women became electors, they would be "unsexed," Mrs. Fawcett rises to a height of genuine eloquence:—

"Women have stood on the battle-field with blood and carnage on every side of them, and the air heavy with the groans of the dying. Have they been less true to womanhood and to humanity because they have cast aside the fear of danger to themselves, and endured sickening sights and sounds for the sake of relieving the sufferings of others. Shakespeare makes many of his heroines do things which would be considered very strange in these days; in one of his plays he speaks of a woman being unsexed. Who is it? Not Portia, who donned the doctor's robe and pleaded as an advocate in a court of law; not the quick-witted Beatrice, who longed to be a man to revenge the wrong done to her cousin; not Helena, the physician; none of these, but Lady Macbeth, the perpetrator, for the sake of ambition, of the most revolting crimes. She was unsexed by acts which would transform anyone—man or woman—who committed them into a fiend. No one who is in the least conscious of the fitness of words would speak of a woman being unsexed by entering a polling-booth, the word is applicable only to express the moral degradation which succeeds the perpetration of crime. No act which is in itself innocent can deprive a woman of her womanhood."

We have said enough to justify our final comment upon these essays, which is that they are a valuable contribution to the literature of our day, and that no one can read them without finding something on every page to perfect his political education.

SOME NEW POEMS.*

Since Alexander Smith sent forth his "Life-Drama," nothing more genuine in the poetic way has reached us from the West of Scotland than "Olrig Grange." That the author has been influenced by Browning more than by any other contemporary poet is patent on the most cursory glance; but it speedily becomes evident that he is no imitator, and that he reminds you of Browning, because he has mental affinities with him, rather than because he slavishly follows his manner. Indeed there is throughout this poem a sharp and unhesitating individuality of touch, which puts the idea of mere discipleship wholly out of the question. It is strictly a series of dramatic lyrics, to each of which the pseudo-editor, Herr Professor Kunst, gives a sort of introduction or overture. What distinguishes the work mainly from those of Browning which resemble it even remotely, is that the writer is not only intent on tracing out and exhibiting the vaguest individual motives and tendencies; but also represents, in a sort of semi-satiric way, secondary tendencies of the time, which Browning rather eschews dealing with directly. And what is most noticeable is that in this case the portions of "Olrig Grange" which can be so classified are really the most powerful. Thorold, a young man, the proprietor, has lived with his sister, Hester, at Olrig Grange. He has been educated for the ministry, but finds it advisable to follow another profession, and chooses literature. When the poem opens he is about to take his last walk with his sister, who, it would appear, is in love with Herr Kunst, the editor, before starting for London. His sister has many fears for his fate. In London, he falls in love with a lady of fashion, Rose, from whom we have a very characteristic confession, tinged a little with Browning's way of conceiving things; and we have also monologues from Rose's father and mother, full of worldly views and conventional prudence. Thorold, who has studied hard, returns home ill, and the poem concludes with his confessions and moralisings. There is a great deal of subtlety here and there; but the predominating element is, as we have already said, sub-satirical. Nothing could be better than the manner in which dilettante science is exposed in the case of Rose's father; or worldly convenience in that of her mother. And equally powerful and beautiful is Rose's confession of her unworthiness of Thorold, when love had awakened her to his dignity, and to the smallness of the life which is led in the circles in which she moves.

"Now, hear me; I, too, had my dream,
The which I fondled day and night;
It shed upon my life the gleam
Of a new world of truth and right:
Now all in vain, for in its light
I see as I had never seen
Before; I see that life is mean
Without the purpose and the might
Of a noble Faith, and a Hope serene.

I will not be to you a care,
A burden only changed for death;

* *Olrig Grange*. Edited by HERMANN KUNST, Philol. Professor. (James Maclehose.)
Twilight Hours: A Legacy of Verse. By SARAH WILLIAMS (Sadie). With a Memoir by Professor Plumptre. (Strahan and Co.)
Orion; an Epic Poem. In Three Books. By R. H. HORNE. Ninth Edition. Ellis and Greene.

* *Essays and Lectures on Social and Political Subjects*. By HENRY FAWCETT, M.P., and MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

I will not be to you a snare,
As she was to the priest of Faith:
You shall not tremble lest the breath
Of slander dim a wife's pure name,
And feeling shame deny the shame,
And sadly smiling bear the scath
Of a nature too shallow to get much blame.

Therefore my dream I must dispel,
Therefore my love I must refuse.
It was a sweet and tender spell
Of soft enchantment I did use.
I was to blame; I therefore lose
The one great bliss I ever knew,
The false love which yet made me true,
Bathing me in its cleansing dews,
But I know it grew irksome already to you.

Nay, don't deny it; it was right,
You could not help it; I have seen
Often the anxious doubtful light
Of those true eyes, when I have been
Showing a nature small and mean.
I've watched the shadow of regret,
The pleading look, when our looks met.
The pain and fear you fain would screen,
And I could not be other, and cannot yet."

But it is quite impossible by extracts to give any proper idea of this poem, which depends so much on its dramatic reality and strictness of characterisation. It plainly shows the impress of genius, for it is full of point, of humour, of delicate suggestion, and is so powerful, even where its music is incomplete, and we will look forward anxiously for more from the author's hand.

Many readers will be pleased to see this third and enlarged edition of "Sadie's" poems. The circumstances of her life and her early death impart a peculiar interest to these poems, which, on their own account alone, are sufficiently remarkable. She had surprising variety of range, could touch moods the most diverse and discordant with firm hand and unflinching truthfulness. And besides there was always present a certain delicacy of conception, which was never in any way sacrificed, even although she had a very powerful vein of humour, which she did not scruple to indulge. For while she was serious and earnest-minded, she was never austere, and there was nothing she had more fear of than over-goodness. Such poems as "Widowed," "The Life of a Leaf," and "Deep-Sea Soundings," certainly deserve a permanent place. Even some of the lighter efforts are full of an airy beauty, all their own, as in this, titled—

"LOVE'S WEALTH."

"Little mother, little daughter,
Over all the land we go;
We can cross the running water,
Though the fairy speech we know.
We can set the harebells ringing,
We can feed on clover mead;
Singing, singing, ever singing,
Love doth answer all our need.
O hey, the glassy river;
O hey, the bonny river,
Where all the day
The shadows play,
And rushes gleam and quiver.
The silver drops, so cool and sweet,
Come trickling o'er our dusty feet,
As through the shallow ford we go,
And neither time nor distance know,
Adown the sunny river."

Mr. R. H. Horne, who after sowing the seeds of a lasting reputation in England, condemned himself to a long literary obscurity in Australia, leaving his fame at home almost wholly unregarded, has, although late, earnestly set himself to retrieve lost time. This new edition of "Orion" is a token of this, and a pledge of further effort, in spite of the fact that Mr. Horne is no longer a young man. But he still writes with the old spirit—clear, vigorous, sagacious. Every reader of poetry knows that "Orion" is one of the most finished of classic restorations. It has the chaste simplicity, the reposeful strength and grace, which can alone justify the appellation of classic, and here and there it has passages of wondrous music. And not only so; but Mr. Horne has engrafted on the Greek form a full current of modern, or rather of eternal, meaning which he has plainly set forth in a preface to this new edition. "Orion" has been generally admired by critics, though it has hardly commanded the popularity it deserved, even though it has passed through various editions in England and in America; but the critics were not a little divided as to its intellectual intent. As has been the case with other poets, Mr. Horne is rather surprised at the meanings which some "erudites" have found in it, and he himself now furnishes a very simple one. "The poem of 'Orion,'" he says, "was intended to work out a special design, applicable to all times, by means of antique or classical imagery and associations; and this design, with the here and the several characters who appear on the scene, as well as the general structure and distribution of the action, were long considered before a line was written. . . . 'Orion,' the hero of my fable, is meant to present a type of the struggle of man with himself—i.e., the con-

test between the intellect and the senses, when "powerful energies are equally balanced." The poem, we fancy, will be read with no less but with deeper and fuller enjoyment from this knowledge; and we hope that Mr. Horne may have many approving readers among the new generation which has sprung up since he first published "Orion," now so many years ago. The reference to the "Fleshy School Scandal" in the preface might have been spared; but we very warmly welcome the portrait of the poet here given us.

QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

The present number of the *British Quarterly* does not commence with its best article. It opens with an analytical criticism of the poetry of Matthew Arnold, in which very extravagant praise is paid to that writer. The article, while it may be said to be, in some respects, clever, is written in a laborious and painful manner, the writer having certainly failed to catch any of Mr. Arnold's rhythm of style. "The Modern Newspaper," which follows, is a good description of the present state of the English and continental press, in which we have especially a capital description of the telegraphic department of newspapers, and an intelligent correction of some of Mr. Grant's mistakes. "The American Civil War" is by an American. It is ably and cautiously written, and takes a wide and comprehensive sweep of the remoter as well as the more proximate causes of the war. Its tone, also, is good; but how is it that, amongst the authorities recommended to study, Mr. Bancroft is not mentioned? Jared Sparks (not Sparks) stands at the head of the list; but who can read Jared Sparks? Well, "impartial" he may be, and impartiality is certainly a virtue, even though it be combined with unutterable dullness. "Pope and his Editors" is a capital, drastic criticism on Mr. Elwin's late edition of Pope, written by a practised critic. We quite agree with him that Mr. Elwin might have spent less time in abusing Pope and more in explaining and illustrating him. "The Licensing System" is a more liberal article than we should have expected on such a subject, but it carries with it the authority of wide knowledge and practical experience; a magistrate, as we judge, being the writer. The writer is both statesmanlike and philosophical in arguing against premature legislation. No doubt laws help to make opinion, but it is better, in a constitutional country, that opinion should make laws. One of his arguments against rash legislation is thus put:—

"Lastly, there is much disunion in the camp of the friends of temperance. There is the United Kingdom Alliance, whose object is to procure the total suppression of the liquor traffic; there is the 'National Association' for promoting amendment in the liquor laws, with its programme of moderate remedies; there is the 'National Union,' with another programme differing from that of the Association rather in its minor details than its leading features; there is the 'Sunday Closing Association,' whose title discloses its purpose; and on the other side there is a body of licensed victuallers, united by common interest, whose influence in Parliament is considerable, and whose champions are not to be despised. These are some of the peculiar circumstances under which fresh legislation is demanded. Surely the most sanguine enthusiast can hardly expect that, hampered as he is by such complications, he will be able to carry any uncompromising measure of abolition, and impose his views and wishes, *purs et simples*, on the unwilling minds of his countrymen!"

There are many but mild practical suggestions in this article. It is recommended that the present temporary law of licence be made perpetual; that vestries should be empowered to build and furnish convenient club-houses for working men (a novel and ingenious suggestion, but one that can hardly be adopted); more stringent regulations for the renewal of licences; the earlier closing of ale or beer houses; harder treatment of habitual drunkards; and a systematic analysis of the liquors sold. These are moderate suggestions, and so may commend themselves to moderate people. There is next a genial paper on "Sir Henry Holland's Recollections"; and a most carefully-written and exhaustive one following, on "Kidnapping in the South Seas," in which the whole of this important subject is treated in an abler manner than we have seen it treated anywhere. To many, however, the last paper, on the Conference of Nonconformists at Manchester, will seem the best in the number. We can say of it that it is the most elaborate and the most satisfactory defence of the present Nonconformist position that we have read. It will be seen from this account that the *British Quarterly* retains its high position as an organ of art, literature, and politics.

One of the best proofs of the interest Dissenting questions are awakening is to be found in the attention which the quarterlies are giving them. It shows that it is already felt even by those who are least willing to entertain them, that they must soon be the questions of the hour, by which parties will be divided, and Ministries stand or fall. Indeed, it is so already, and must become more so in the immediate future. We are not surprised to find the *Quarterly* writing on "Education, Secularism, and Nonconformity," though we are somewhat agreeably astonished at the tone in which the article is penned. Of course it is distinctly and strongly opposed to us, but it is an opposition based on principle, and not degraded by that vulgar abuse or

shameless misrepresentation to which we have become only too accustomed in this controversy. The writer differs from our views, but he fully recognises that our desire to exclude religious instruction from national schools does not proceed from any indifference to religion itself. We cannot, of course, enter into his arguments here. Suffice it to say, that he puts his view with fairness and force, and we may add that it is a view with which Nonconformists will have to deal thoroughly if they are to carry public opinion with them. It is for them to show not only that the State cannot give religious teaching, but that the churches can, and that they alone can, if the work is to be done with any efficiency. We cannot complain of supporters of Church Establishments that they insist on the State doing the work. Our surprise is that there should be any Free Churchmen who distrust the power of Christian willinghood, and ask the State to do for children what they object on conscientious grounds to allow its doing for adults. An article on "Concessions to the United States," is intended at once to prove that we have dealt too gently with our American cousins, who have taken advantage of our weakness, and as far as possible to discredit the Gladstone Government for the present position of the Alabama negotiations. Perhaps this is fair enough in party warfare, but we doubt whether it is consistent with the highest patriotism to hold up a Ministry, which is doing its best in an extremely difficult position, as regarding the American people, "with mingled emotions of fear and anxiety to please, which contrive to render its claims tremulous in their diffidence, its concessions servile in their eagerness." For ourselves we believe both people want peace, and that if it is not established on a sound basis by a satisfactory treaty, the failure will be caused mainly by the sacrifice of patriotic considerations to party exigencies on both sides the Atlantic. Of the literary merits of this number of the *Quarterly* we must speak in the highest terms. The article on "Thomas Carlyle" is singularly able; that on "Mason's Life of Milton" is discriminating in its judgment of the book, and original in its treatment of the political and ecclesiastical position of the poet. The paper on the "British Parliament; its History and Eloquence," is one of the most interesting in the number, and all the more so because of the absence of political bias by which it is distinguished.

The *Edinburgh* does not show favourably by the side of its great competitor. We have already devoted an article to the extraordinary paper on disestablishment, which, with the exception of an article on the "Claims of the United States," is the only one on any subject of immediate interest. No less than four of the papers are more or less biographical, one on "The Duke de Broglie," another on "John Hookham Frere," a third on "Lord Brougham," and a fourth on "Sir Charles Bell," but none of them possess any features of special interest. A *Quarterly*, indeed, is at great disadvantage when it has to deal with books which have already been so fully discussed, both by the weeklies and monthlies, as the memoirs of Hookham Frere and Brougham, and it requires more than we find here to clothe a review with any freshness. The account of "Rome and the Campagna," and of Mr. Burn's labours and of the work of the company which has been formed for dredging the Tiber, is interesting, and even more so is the historic sketch of the Royal Institution. Our case against the United States is stated without passion, and with considerable acuteness, and we are bound to endorse the tribute paid to Earl Russell for the sagacity he has shown in these American affairs.

The *London Quarterly* opens with an article on "Unitarianism." It is written with ability, and no doubt many of its strictures are just, but we do not like the spirit in which it is written. Of course everything depends upon the object in view. If the design was to make out a strong case against the Unitarians it has been successfully carried out, but the question arises whether it was worth doing. For ourselves we have less and less sympathy with attacks of this kind which, though they may damage a party, do nothing for the advancement of the truth. If the object was to win Unitarians, the paper is an egregious blunder. It has clever hits, is a capital *argumentum ad hominem*, and will, no doubt, be regarded as smart and telling, but this is worth little if the result is to drive those who are thus assailed further from the truth instead of drawing them to it. After all, Unitarianism is not doing, and, from the unsatisfying and unattractive character of its teaching, cannot do, one title of the mischief which is being wrought by that Ultramontanism which the *London Quarterly*, unconsciously, we may admit, but not less certainly, helps to strengthen by such articles as that on "Irish Primary Education," which we have already noticed at length. We have pleasure in drawing attention to the articles on the "Resurrection of Christ," and "Kalisch on Leviticus," both of which are able. That on "British Journalism," is neither worthy of the subject nor of the review.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Science and Humanity. By NOAH PORTER, D.D., LL.D. (Hodder and Stoughton.) This book, which is the expansion of a lecture delivered by the author before the societies of the B. K. (whatever they may

be) in Harvard and Trinity Colleges, is an argument, and a very able one, against that exclusion of man from modern scientific systems for which some of the latest scientific writers have contended. There is a very able criticism on Comte and Positivism, in which Dr. Porter convicts Comte of the huge and ludicrous inconsistency of disparaging metaphysics by metaphysical methods. After giving the fundamental principles of Comte and the characteristics of Positivism, as these have been summed up by Mr. Mill, he says:—"Of the Positive Philosophy as thus expounded, we observe that it is 'properly if not emphatically metaphysical.' He then goes on to show that Comte "has applied the *priori* "method to set aside a positive phenomenon or fact." He calls the Positivists "the *sans-culottes* of philosophy, on the principle that the fewer clothes "we have the nearer we come to naked truth, and "the less occasion we have to look after our "clothes, or the less we are tempted to think more of "the clothes than of the man." Dr. Porter then proceeds to criticise Mr. Mill, and charges him with having failed in four essential particulars to supply the defects which he acknowledges in Comte, his master. He points out in a clear and nervous way the singular vagueness in some of Mr. Mill's definitions, shows how Mr. Mill, after bowing man out of the front door, as having no place in its system other than being one of its phenomena, afterwards surreptitiously brings him in by a back door as an essential element of the problem which is to be solved. After a few words about the "cerebralists" and Mr. Alexander Bain, Dr. Porter proceeds to the "examina" of Mr. Herbert Spencer and his theory of a law of evolution, which he treats in a very ingenious and masterly fashion. For all who have any interest in such matters, Dr. Porter's little book will be a very valuable and welcome addition to a discussion, which is indeed the gravest of all times. The style is all that could be desired for clearness and beauty, and even a dry subject is here made attractive by the imaginative and tasteful way in which it is put.

The Seventh Volume of the New Testament Division of Lange's *Biblework* (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark) is not easy to describe, much less to review, with brevity. It consists of Commentaries on St. Paul's Epistles to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. The Commentary on Galatians is by Dr. Otto Schmaller, and is translated by C. C. Starbuck, with additions by Dr. Riddle; those on Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians are by Dr. Braune, the two former being translated, with additions, by Dr. Riddle, the last by Professor Hackett; while all are edited and supervised by Dr. Philip Schaff. Such a constellation of stars may fairly be expected to throw no little light even on the darkest and most involved passages in the Epistles of the learned and impassioned Apostle, and to render somewhat plainer the "many things" in them of which even St. Peter gently complained as being, to his simplicity, "hard to be understood." Nor, on the whole, is that reasonable expectation disappointed. But he who would get the full benefit of these commentaries must gird up the loins of his mind and prepare himself for a long, if not tedious, journey. Nor must he despond if now and again he cannot "see "the wood for the trees." For this, like the other volumes of the series, is overlaid with words, and obscured by a method so cumbrous as to be wearisome. Nevertheless, let him travel on with courage and good hope; for the words are those of able exegetes, and contain the best results of modern Biblical criticism, though they have to be sought out carefully, if not with tears. He who really studies this translation of Lange's Commentaries need study little else. They will furnish him with well-nigh all he requires for a scientific and devout apprehension of the Scriptures. And they have a special value for the preacher who is able to absorb their contents and to recast them in simpler forms.

Judas: a Dream. By Rev. H. H. DOBNEY. (Longmans.) The object of this book is to throw some light upon the important question—What becomes of the souls of the lost? Mr. Dobney is a believer in the restoration of all. A considerable portion of the book is in the form of a conversation betwixt himself and a friend upon the case of Judas, which he takes, we suppose, as a crucial one. After this conversation he has a dream, in which he sees the mangled body of the suicide, but perceives that he is no longer there, but is discerned, in new form, "at once more shadowy, and "yet more real." He is borne away by angels to a solitary, volcanic world enveloped in a perpetual gray light, without sun or moon, or day or night, or time. Here, for an immeasurable period, he sits in solitary misery, afraid to look around him. At last he falls asleep, and dreams a dream in which his old life passes before him. He cries out for his mother in his dream, and she is instantly at his side to comfort. By-and-by his wife is permitted to join her consolations, and of course the end is, "the Lord of Glory leading him by "the hand," and "joy among all the angels of heaven" at his entrance into the heavenly state. We will not enter into any discussion of this highly interesting question, about which we believe it is impossible to speculate to any purpose. Mr. Dobney's book will be read with great interest by all who are interested in the subject. It is very well written, and the Dream is the product of an imagination of a high order.

The Secret of Long Life (H. S. King and Co.) is very

fitly dedicated to Lord St. Leonards, as being one of "the illustrious brotherhood who possess the secret of "long life." It is a light, sketchy, garrulous book, which, however, follows a method of its own. It is full of anecdote and instance, and shows the hand of the true essayist—of a man who has read with quiet, leisurely enjoyment in the most out-of-the-way corners, who has an excellent memory and good spirits, and can at once appreciate a joke and indulge in one without sacrifice of dignity. He has gained the trick of literary *nonchalance*, if we may name it so. He indulges in quips and cranks and quaint turns, in a manner that sets criticism at defiance, and yet criticism soon falls into similar humour, and smirks and smiles contentedly in his company. "Modes of Life," "Marriage," "Politics," "Sleep," and other such themes, are considered in the manner indicated in a series of series of short chapters. It is on the whole a very enjoyable and lively book.

The Parables of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Explained to Country Children. By the Rev. S. C. MALAN. Two Vols. (Bell and Dally.) If our readers can fancy themselves in a country church full of children undergoing catechetical instruction by a skilful clergyman who thoroughly knows how to adapt his questions to the capacity of his pupils; and if they assume that the answers are all right, and just the sort that country children would give, and further, that such questions and answers extend to two volumes of 500 pages each; they will have an accurate idea of this book. There are, of course, multitudes of things—Eastern customs and the like—in the Parables of our Lord which need explanation to the young. Mr. Malan has done this in so simple a way by comparison with familiar things at home, that the children could not fail to understand. The book will be a most valuable help to all ministers holding such very useful services, and not less to a large number of Sunday-school teachers.

Commentary on the Gospel according to Matthew. By JAMES MORRISON, D.D. (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.) There is no better exposition of St. Matthew than this, none more handy, suggestive, or more skilfully adapted to the wants of the lay preacher, the city missionary, the Sunday-school teacher, or the Christian parent who seeks to train his children in the knowledge of the truth. It condenses and gathers into itself the essence of many commentaries. It presents the results of the best German and English criticism in a compact form, and renders them accessible to those who cannot read either the Greek original or those comments in which it is cited and critically explained. And moreover those results have been digested by a fresh, vigorous mind in which they have taken new and simpler forms, and are expressed in a clear, nervous, and direct style.

Mr. William Tegg, the well-known publisher, has issued Vol. I. of Dr. Adam Clarke's *Commentary on the Bible*, condensed and annotated by the Rev. ROBERT NEWTON YOUNG. The whole work is to be completed in three volumes, and will doubtless be very acceptable to that large section of the Christian Church of which Adam Clarke was a distinguished ornament. As an aid to devotion, the fine reflections with which the Commentary abounds may well win for it a still wider acceptance, although the immense advance that has been made in all departments of Biblical knowledge since the death of its erudite author renders it of little value to the student and the expositor. The publishers have spared no pains to present it to the public in a handsome and convenient form; type, paper, binding leave nothing to be desired.

Sermons. By the Rev. J. W. ROULING. (Bemrose and Sons.) We are glad to be able to say of this volume, what we are not often able to say of published sermons, that it is full of good sound thought clothed in good, and often eloquent language. In the latter respect, indeed, there is in some places a faulty excess, a straining after effect. There are a few tricks of language which the uncultured will think very fine, but which detract from its force and beauty with those whose admiration is more worth having. Still it is a volume of discourses that most people could read with pleasure and with profit.

In *Tottie's Trial* (Strahan and Co.) the lady who publishes under the nom-de-plume of "Kay Spen," has written a very attractive story for girls; though it is here and there a little loose in its construction, and diffuse in dialogue. But it is marked by quiet strength and knowledge of girl-character; Joanna and Nelly becoming somehow very real to us as we read, no less than Miss Tottie, the heroine. There are one or two very good points—not made too much of either—near the close, when Tottie is nursing Bertram.

Nature's Mighty Wonders. By RICHARD NEWTON, D.D. (London: S. W. Partridge and Co.) A book of sermons for young children, subdivided into chapters, dealing respectively with the sun, the moon, the stars, the light, the air, the clouds, the trees, the flowers—intended to show how the works of God praise Him. It comprises much useful information in natural history and philosophy, and is profusely illustrated with engravings (some very excellent) by Birket Foster and other artists. It is likely, we think, to be a very favourite book with the young people.

The Round of Service: a Metrical Liturgy. (Longmans.) This is simply the Prayer-book put into rhyme. The preface tells us that it is the product of a Noncon-

formist, who for some time was compelled (we presume) to worship with the Episcopalian Church. There is hardly a Churchman living who would have done such a thing. We ourselves can hardly commend the idea, which seems to have arisen from a sort of mania for metre. The writing of this book has no doubt been an amusement to the author. We cannot see any other use that it will serve. Portions of the Prayer-book are prettily rendered, and there is some genuine poetry.

Commentary on Paul's Epistle to the Romans. By W. S. PLUMER, D.D., LL.D. (Edinburgh: Oliphant and Co.) A very dogmatic and tedious book, in which the grand argument of St. Paul is at once compressed within the narrow limits of a hard and technical theology, and diluted with a flood of verbiage.

MUSIC.

Messrs. Cock and Co. (New Bond-street) have just published a song, called *The Orphan*, by Ciro Pinsuti, the well-known composer. The music is plaintive and expressive, and well suited to the words to which Mr. C. J. Rowe has married it. The piece is dedicated, by special permission, to the Princess Louise, and the profits will be devoted to the funds of the Orphan Working School.—*Tunes for Hymns in the "Rivulet"* (Strahan and Co.), are a collection from a number of compositions by the late Rev. Thomas Lynch, whose musical taste was very marked. There are some twenty-five tunes, well harmonised, original, and melodious, and they are well adapted to the hymns for which they were composed.—*The Children's Messiah* (Sunday School Union) is a kind of hymn oratorio, consisting of sixteen good hymns or tunes with passages of Scripture connecting them together. The use of it now and then would form a pleasant relief to the usual routine of the Sunday school.—Mr. Haddon (Bouverie-street) publishes, in a compact little work, a collection of twelve anthems and six sanctuses, comprising a selection of some of the best of both. It is likely to be useful to congregations only using an anthem occasionally. Books of the words are published separately.

Miscellaneous.

HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—At the meeting of the Board of Works on Friday, Colonel Hogg, M.P., in the chair, the Parliamentary Committee reported on a letter from the Hampstead Vestry as to the desirability of the board obtaining power to make provisions for house accommodation for the working classes who will be dispossessed by the proposed improvements of the board. It has been suggested that certain portions of the land to be taken by the board should be set aside as building sites for the accommodation of the working classes. The architect had selected three sites to be so set aside, and the committee recommended that the solicitor be instructed to prepare a clause for insertion in the Improvement Bill of the board, now before Parliament, to this effect. Mr. Dalton, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the works of the board would turn 1,457 persons out of their homes, and the plots to be set aside would accommodate 3,452 persons. Mr. Richardson moved the postponement of the debate. The Chairman said he had been in communication with the Home Office on the subject, and he had been much pressed by members of Parliament to come to a decision at once. The result of his communication with the Home Office was embodied in the report. Mr. Alderman Stone warmly supported the report, which, after some discussion, was adopted.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.—The newly published "Quarterly Statement" of this society gives the latest report of the progress of the survey now being conducted in Palestine. It must be understood that the "Survey" comprises not only the triangulation which, in the absence of Captain Stewart, has been conducted by the two non-commissioned officers he left behind him (Sergeant Black, R.E., and Corporal Armstrong, R.E.), but also a most careful examination of ruins, identification of places mentioned in Scripture, lists of names, &c., with other archaeological work, all of which is entrusted to Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake. Some of his new work is in the present "Quarterly." Among other points of interest it may be mentioned that he has found a cromlech, described as a triangular stone 6ft. 6in. high, 9ft. broad, and from 2ft. to 3ft. thick. Of true Biblical interest is his account of the real meaning of the word "Shephelah," rendered as "plain" and "valley" in the authorised version. He makes also numerous identifications of ancient cities. The triangulation now extends from Jaffa to Jerusalem. Of course, scientific observations cannot be published until the calculations have been duly carried out. This work is now in hand. We are informed that since the publication of this number of their journal, the committee have had, greatly to their regret, to accept the resignation of Captain Stewart, whose ill-health does not allow him to go back at present. It is hoped to obtain without delay the services of another Royal Engineer officer. Meantime, the work in hand is proceeding without interruption.

THE BALANCE OF PARTIES.—The possibility of a vital division taking place at no distant day has set

both political parties estimating their gains and losses since the general election. When the present Parliament assembled, on the 10th December, 1868, the number of Liberals ranged under the leadership of Mr. Gladstone was 387, while the Conservatives mustered only 271, thus giving the former a majority of 116. The first great division of the Parliament took place on the morning of the 24th March, 1869, when the second reading of the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill was carried by 368 to 250—a majority of 118. Since that time the voting power of the House has been diminished by six members, Beverley, Bridgwater, Cashel, and Sligo having been disfranchised. The losses were equally divided between the two parties. During the existence of the Parliament the Liberals have won the following eight seats:—Bewdley, Bridgnorth, Dublin, London city, Nottingham, Norwich, Stalybridge, and Taunton. On the other hand, the Conservatives have won eighteen seats, viz.,—Colchester, Dumfriesshire, Durham, Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, Hereford, Isle of Wight, Newry, Notts North, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, Southwark, Stafford, Surrey East, Surrey West, Tamworth, Truro, Wareham, and the Northern Division of the West Riding. The balance of advantage is, therefore, on the side of the Conservatives to the extent of ten seats, or twenty votes. The Opposition now numbers about 290, while the Ministerialists, including Whigs, Radicals, Roman Catholics, Dissenters, and Presbyterians, are 360, a nominal majority of 70. The seat at Wexford is the only one now vacant.—*Daily News*.

Gleanings.

It is intended to call in the fourpenny pieces, so as to avoid the confusion which now arises from having two coins of nearly the same value and appearance.

A little child accosted his somewhat bald papa thus:—"Papa, are you growing still?" "No, dear; what makes you think so?" "Because the top of your head is coming through your hair."

A Fenian, over the water, was called on for a toast. He gave the following:—

All hail the American eagle!
Proud bird of freedom, all hail!
The fowl that no one can invigle,
Or put salt on its beautiful tail.

AN UNEXPECTED REPLY.—A member of the schoolboard recently in a town in the north, dropped into a village school, and after hearing the urchins sing, passed them this compliment, begot of his opera experience:—"Boys, when I heard your beautiful song to-night, I had to work hard to keep my feet still. Now, what do you think was the matter with them?" The answer came with great promptness, "Chillblainth!"

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

MARRIAGES.

HARVEY—BAYLIS—March 20, at Neyoor, South Travancore, by the Rev. S. Duthie, Robert Harvey, Esq., M.A., of Trevandram, to Jessie Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Frederick Baylis, of Neyoor.

DAWBARN—DAWBARN.—April 16, at Upper Hill-street Chapel, Wisbech, by the Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, Robert Yelverton, second son of William Dawbarn, Esq., Elmswood, Liverpool, to Caroline, only daughter of George Dawbarn, Esq., Wisbech.

WORSLEY-BENISON—JAMES.—April 17, at Trinity Chapel, Reading, by the Rev. J. F. Stevenson, B.A., LL.B., assisted by the Rev. J. Smedmore, uncle of the bridegroom, Henry Worsley Seymour Worsley-Benison, eldest son of the late Henry Worsley-Benison, Esq., of Mowbrick Lodge, Bristol, to Amelia Thoresby, youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas James, of Reading.

GRAVEN—FOSTER.—April 17, at St. Paul's Church, Denholme, by the Right Rev. Bishop Ryan, D.D., Vicar of Bradford, assisted by the Rev. M. J. Wilkinson, M.A., Vicar of Denholme, Alice, fourth daughter of the late Henry Foster, Esq., of Denholme, to Joshua, son of Joseph Craven, Esq., of Ashfield, Thornton.

DYSON—HOBSON.—April 17, at Headingley-hill Congregational church, by the Rev. A. H. Byles, Mr. John Dyson, Briggate, Leeds, to Lucy Ann, only daughter of Mr. Thomas Hobson, of Woodhouse.

SHARP—STURGE.—April 18, at Highfield-road Chapel, Dartford, James, son of Mr. J. Sharp, of Dartford, to Emily Jane, daughter of the Rev. A. Sturge, of Dartford.

LOWE—CUTHBERTSON.—April 19, at Pimlico Chapel, London, by the Rev. William Jones, of Hastings, brother-in-law of the bride, George Lowe, to Emily Meldrum, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson, of 23, Wellington-square, and Whitelands, Chelsea.

EDWARDS—JACKSON.—April 23, at York-street, Walworth, by the Rev. P. J. Turquand, Mr. Daniel Edwards, of Uckfield, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late W. B. Jackson, of Kennington. No cards.

DEATH.

CONQUEST.—April 18, at his residence, Belvedere, Kent, William Shrubsole, second son of the late J. T. Conquest, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., &c., dearly loved and deeply lamented.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Palpitation, pain in the side, wheezing, or tightness of the chest, portend coming mischief. The sufferers at this season from coughs, colds, bronchitis, asthma, and disordered action of the heart, are earnestly recommended to rub Holloway's searching Ointment well over the back and chest twice a day. Invalids may confidently rely upon the beneficial effects resulting from this treatment, which involves no danger, and very little expense. Fortunately, neither Ointment nor Pills can possibly prove injurious. They soon relieve all urgent symptoms, ultimately eradicate the complaint, and remove all causes for its recurrence. In early life more particularly, all departures from health demand immediate attention.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, April 17.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£35,927,230	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	20,927,230
		Silver Bullion
	£35,927,230		£35,927,230

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietor's Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,304,056
Reserve	3,163,392	Other Securities	24,105,331
Public Deposits	9,061,523	Notes	10,113,060
Other Deposits	21,038,322	Gold & Silver Coin	709,283
Seven Day and other Bills	415,493		
	£48,231,730		£48,231,730

April 18, 1872.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, April 22.

We had small supplies of English as well as foreign wheat for this morning's market. The trade maintained the firmness of last week, but activity was rather checked by change of the weather. The best samples of English wheat made an advance of 1s. per qr. on the prices of Monday last, and foreign wheat was in fair request at a similar improvement for selected qualities. Flour was in moderate demand, at 6d. per barrel advance. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were the turn dealer. Malting barley sold at 6d. to 1s. advance; grinding descriptions met a better sale, at former quotations. Of oats we have short arrivals, and prices of all descriptions have further improved 6d. per qr. during the week. The cargoes at the ports of call have nearly all been disposed of.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr.		Per Qr.
	s. s.		s. s.
WHEAT—		PEAS—	
Essex and Kent,		Grey	32 to 33
red.	— to —	Maple	36 38
Ditto new. . .	50 to 55	White	36 40
White	— —	Boilers	36 40
.. new	56 62	Foreign	36 40
Foreign red ..	53 55	RYE	36 38
.. white	57 58		
BARLEY—		OATS—	
English malting	29 31	English feed ..	21 25
Chevalier	36 41	.. potato	26 32
Distilling	29 33	Scotch feed	— —
Foreign	27 30	.. potato	— —
MALT—		Irish Black	18 20
Pale	— —	.. White	18 21
Chevalier	— —	Foreign feed ..	16 19
Brown	51 56		
BEANS—		FLOUR—	
Ticks	30 32	Town made	45 50
Harrow	33 34	Best country ..	— —
Small	— —	households	39 42
Egyptian	30 31	Norfolk & Suffolk	37 38

BREAD, Monday, April 22.—The prices in the Metropolitan are, for Wheatens Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, April 22.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 16,733 head. In the corresponding week in 1871 we received 14,733; in 1870, 5,953; in 1869, 12,632; and in 1868, 5,194 head. The cattle trade has been rather firmer to-day. About an average supply of beasts has been on sale, and the quality generally has been good. For most breeds there has been an active inquiry, and prices have been fully 2d. per 8lbs. higher. The best Scots and crosses have sold at 5s. 4d., and occasionally at 5s. 6d., per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,750 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England 250 various breeds; and from Aberdeen 84 Scots and crosses. There has been a good show of sheep in the pens, chiefly foreign. A want of animation has characterised the inquiry, but the tone, on the whole, has been steady. The best Downs and half-breeds have made 5s. 8d. to 5s. 10d., and in some few instances 6s., per 8lbs. Lambs have been dear, at from 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per 8lbs. Calves have been disposed of at about previous quotations. Pigs have sold at late rates.

Per 8lbs. to sink the offal.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	2 10 to 3 6	Prime Southdown	5 8 6 0
Second quality	3 8 4 4	Large coarse calves	4 5 0
Prime large oxen	4 8 5 2	Prime small ..	5 4 6 0
Prime Scots ..	5 4 5 6	Large hogs ..	3 8 4 4
Coarse inf. sheep	3 8 4 4	Neat sm. porkers	4 6 5 0
Second quality	4 6 4 10	Lamb	8 6 9 6
Pr. coarse woolled	5 0 5 6		

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, April 22.—Fair supplies have been on offer. The trade has been firm, but not active, at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 976 packages from Hamburg, and 5 packages from Harlingen.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Inferior beef	3 4 to 3 10	Middling do.	4 8 to 5 2
Middling do.	4 0 4 4	Prime do.	5 6 5 10
Prime large do.	4 6 4 10	Small pork ..	3 8 4 6
Prime small do.	4 10 5 0	Small do. ..	4 10 5 4
Veal	5 0 5 8	Lamb	8 0 9 0
Inferior Mutton	4 0 4 6		

PROVISIONS, Monday, April 22.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 320 firkins butter and 5,340 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 22,151 packages butter, and 1,220 bales bacon. The small quantity of Irish butter is nearly all cleared, but at very irregular prices. Foreign has sold slowly, and prices have declined fully 8s. to 10s. per cwt. The bacon market ruled firm, and at the close of the week prices advanced 2s. per cwt., owing to the high prices paying in Ireland for pigs; at the advance the market closed quiet. Lard advanced about 2s. per cwt.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Friday, April 19.—An improvement has taken place in the tone of the market, and last week's prices have been maintained, most descriptions of goods being in general demand. Inquiries after the better class of goods also indicate the approach of the London season. Large arrivals of broccoli are to hand from the West and the Channel Islands, and considerable quantities of

asparagus from the continent, with the usual descriptions of salading, arrive three or four times in the course of the week.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, April 22.—The increased business noticed in our last has continued during the past week, rendering holders of stock more confident; and although prices show no advance considerably more firmness is observable. Factors' boards are very meagrely supplied, consisting principally of medium hops, choice grades being exhausted. Colory samples of yearlings are in fair request at late rates. Foreign markets are firm. Alost are in good demand. Mid and East Kent, 10½, 10s., 12½, 12s., to 17½; Weald, 8½, 10s., 9½, 9s., to 10½, 10s.; Sussex, 7½, 15s., 8½, 8s., to 9½, 9s.; Farnham and country, 11½, 11s., 13½, to 16½. Yearlings—Mid and East Kent, 3½, 4½, 4s., to 6½, 10s.; Weald of Kent, 3½, 4½, to 5½, 15s.; Sussex, 3½, 3½, 10s., to 5½, 5s.; Farnham and country, 6½, to 7½; Olds, 14, 5s., 14, 10s., to 2½.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, April 22.—The markets have been moderately supplied with potatoes. There has been a moderate demand at about late rates. The imports into London last week consisted of 2 baskets from Rotterdam, 45 tons from St. Malo, 98 tons from Dunkirk, 47 tons from Dabouet, and 289 boxes from Lisbon. Regents, 140s. to 160s. per ton; Rocks, 110s. to 130s. per ton; Flukes, 150s. to 170s. per ton; Victorias, 140s. to 160s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, April 22.—English cloverseed continues scarce; dark and high-coloured purple and very superior qualities command high prices when they appear. The sales of foreign red were at very irregular prices, ranging at from 48s. to 56s. per cwt., according to quality. Fine new trefoil was purchased in small lots on about former terms; secondary sorts and all old qualities were difficult of sale, although offered at low prices.

WOOL, Saturday, April 22.—The wool market has been steady in tone; but the business doing has not been extensive. Choice qualities have been in fair request, but inferior sorts have sold slowly. Business is suspended in some measure pending the arrival of the new clip.

OIL, Monday, April 22.—Lined oil has been quiet. Rape has been firm. For other oils the demand has been to a moderate extent.

TALLOW, Monday, April 22.—The market has been quiet. Old Y. C., spot, 47s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow, 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, April 22.—Factors succeeded in realising an advance on coals for sale to-day. Hettons, 23s. 6d.; Hettons South, 23s. 3d.; Hettons Lyons, 22s.; Hartlepool, 22s. 6d.; ditto East, 23s.; Hawthorn, 22s.; Helios, 22s. 6d.; Wharfedale, 22s. Fresh arrived—15 screw steamers, 2 sailing ships. Ships at sea, 5.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This celebrated and most delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the words "Kinahan's LL," on seal, label and cork. Wholesale Depot, 6A, Great Titchfield street, Oxford-street, W.

Advertisements.

CHLORALUM. An odourless, non-poisonous disinfectant. The saline antiseptic. Harmless as common salt.

15, Pembroke-road, Dublin,

11th September, 1871.

Sir,—I beg to state that the chloralum powder and solution have been largely employed in this city, and with the most complete success.

The bed of the River Liffey, which emitted a very offensive odour during the recent warm weather, was most satisfactorily disinfected by chloralum powder at the rate of only one pound per 25 square feet.

I have found it most efficacious as a purifier of stables, and I use it constantly in my own house. Altogether, I may say of chloralum that it is a very valuable sanitary agent, and one which is certain to come into general use.

I remain, your obedient servant,

CHAS. A. CAMERON, M.D.,

Professor of Hygiene, Royal College of Surgeons, and Analyst of the City of Dublin.

CHLORALUM IS DISINFECTANT.

CHLORALUM IS A SALINE ANTISEPTIC.

CHLORALUM IS ASTRINGENT.

CHLORALUM is sold in quarts, 2s.; pints, 1s.; half-pints, 6d. By the gallon, 5s. In large quantities by special contract at greatly-reduced prices.

CHLORALUM FOR CHOLERA.

CHLORALUM FOR SICK ROOMS.

CHLORALUM POWDER.

CHLORALUM POWDER IS HARMLESS.

CHLORALUM POWDER.—The best stable disinfectant Chloralum Powder will be found invaluable in—

Hospitals	Cowsheds
Closets and Ill-Ventilated	Alleys and Roads
Apartment	Sewers and Gulliesholes
Earth Closets	In the Dairy and all kinds of
Dustbins	Provision Stores
Wine and Beer Cellars	In the Kennel, and in Poultry-
Stables	houses

Chloralum Powder is not caustic or hurtful in any way, and although it absorbs moisture, it does not deteriorate by keeping.

Casks, 1 cwt., for 15s., and in 6d. and 1s. packets.

CHLORALUM WOOL.

CHLORALUM WOOL IN SURGERY.

CHLORALUM WOOL IN HOSPITALS.

CHLORALUM WOOL.—The New Styptic and Antiseptic Surgical Dressing. In pound and half-pound packages, at 6s. per lb.

CHLORALUM WADDING.—CHLORALUM WADDING, in sheets, price 2s. 6d.

Chloralum Wadding is used extensively as a disinfectant in coffins. A dead body, when covered with Chloralum Wool, cannot convey infection.

CHLORALUM IS SOLD BY ALL CHYMISTS.

CHLORALUM CO.—1 and 2, Great Winchester-street, buildings, E.C.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE. GROVER AND BAKER'S

DOUBLE-LOCK AND ELASTIC STITCH

SEWING MACHINES,

Long acknowledged as

THE BEST,

Are now also

THE CHEAPEST.

THE NEW HAND MACHINES

Are superior to all others.

GROVER AND BAKER,

150, REGENT ST., LONDON, W.; 59, BOLD ST., LIVER-
POOL; and 101, SAUCHIEHALL ST., GLASGOW.

Every Machine guaranteed. Instruction gratis.

Illustrated Prospectus and Samples of Work sent post free.

PREPARATORY BOYS' SCHOOL.—A LADY proposes to RECEIVE a PARTNER who could introduce about Six Pupils. Terms, Thirty Guineas. Seaside, South Coast.—Address, 280, Westminster-bridge-road.

A LADY (a Dissenter) wishes to place her DAUGHTER in a first-class LADIES' SCHOOL, as Junior Teacher. Acquirements:—English, Music, Drawing, and the Rudiments of French. The neighbourhood of London preferred.—Address, M.A., Post-office, Tring, Herts.

MILTON MOUNT COLLEGE, MILTON-ON-THAMES, KENT, for the DAUGHTERS of CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS.

The Executive Committee is prepared to RECEIVE APPLICATIONS from LADIES willing to undertake the duties of HEAD-MISTRESS. Salary, £200 a year to commence with. Limit of age, 45. All applications will be considered as confidential, and must be forwarded not later than June 30, 1872.

A paper of particulars will be furnished on application to THOMAS SCRUTTON, Esq., Treasurer, 73, East India-road, London, E.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at EXETER HALL, in the Strand, London, on WEDNESDAY, the 1st of May, at Eleven o'clock precisely. Doors open at Ten o'clock.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G. in the Chair.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, W. Graham, Esq., M.P.; Rev. E. Hoare, Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser; Rev. Dr. Turner, Missionary from Samoa; Rev. J. Kibler, Missionary from Ceylon; and the Rev. J. Hamilton, British Chaplain at Rome, have engaged to speak on the occasion.

Tickets of admission may be obtained on application at the Society's House, Blackfriars, where attendance will be given for the purpose from Wednesday, April 24th, to Tuesday, April 30th, between the hours of Twelve and Four; on Saturday, April 27th, from Ten to Two.

On SUNDAY EVENING, April 28th, a SERMON will be preached in the CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Kensington (the Rev. Dr. Stoughton's), by the Rev. NEWMAN HALL, LL.B. Service will commence at Half-past Six o'clock.

On TUESDAY, April 30th, a SERMON will be preached in ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL (under the Dome), by the Rev. C. J. VAUGHAN, D.D., Master of the Temple. Service will commence at Four o'clock in the Afternoon.

CHARLES JACKSON, SAMUEL B. BERONE, Secretaries.

COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING of the COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY will be held in the WEIGH-HOUSE CHAPEL on the EVENING of THURSDAY, 9th May.

The Rev. T. BINNEY will occupy the Chair, and Addresses will be delivered by the Rev. T. Jones, Swansea; the Rev. Henry Simon, London; the Rev. Alfred Rowland, LL.B., Frome; J. P. Clarke, Esq., Montreal; and F. Allport, Esq., London.

The Chair will be taken at 6.30 p.m.

ALEXANDER HANNAY, Secretary.
18, South-street, Finsbury, 23rd April, 1872.

MAY-DAY LECTURE.

THE 1872 MAY-DAY LECTURE to the YOUNG will be delivered (p.v.) in STEPNEY MEETING-HOUSE, by the Rev. JOHN KENNEDY, D.D., on WEDNESDAY, May the 1st, 1872.

Young men and women of all classes are respectfully invited. Service to begin at Seven o'clock p.m.

EVANGELISATION SOCIETY,
18, BUCKINGHAM-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

This Society has been established for several years for the purpose of co-operating with ministers and others in promoting Evangelistic work throughout the country. All expenses are paid when necessary. The meetings to be held on neutral ground when possible. Evangelists of all ranks in life go out for this Society. As long a notice as possible is requested. Apply to the Honorary Secretary, 18, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION
for DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Physician—Dr. BARR MEADOWS.

Patients attend at 227, Gray's-inn-road, King's-cross, on Mondays and Thursdays, and at 10, Mitre-street, Aldgate, on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mornings at Ten; Evenings, Six till Nine.

Average number of cases under treatment, 1,000 weekly.
THOMAS ROBINSON, Hon. Sec.

BURN the "STAR" NIGHT LIGHTS.

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY of the RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

The SERMONS will be preached on SUNDAY MORNING, April 28th, at Eleven o'clock, by the Rev. W. CADMAN, M.A., at HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, MARYLEBONE, and by the Rev. A. SAPHIR, B.A., at the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HALKIN-STREET, CHELSEA.

The PUBLIC MEETING will be held in EXETER HALL, on FRIDAY EVENING, May 3rd, the Chair to be taken at Half-past Six o'clock by JAMES C. STEVENSON, Esq., M.P.

The following gentlemen have promised take part in the proceedings:—The Rev. Canon Bardsley, Rector of St. Anne's, Manchester; the Rev. G. D. Macgregor, Pastor of the Congregational Church, Paddington; the Rev. C. D. Marston, Rector of Kershall; the Rev. W. O. Simpson, M.A., of the Islington Wesleyan Circuit; and Henry Lee, Esq., Sedgley-park, Manchester.

Much interesting information will be given of the Society's work at home and abroad.

Tickets for the Public Meeting may be had at the Depositories, 58, Paternoster-row; 65, St. Paul's Churchyard; and 164, Piccadilly; and of Mr. Burdekin, Bookseller, Upper-street, Islington.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATIONAL UNION will be held in London on the 6th, 7th, and 10th days of MAY next.

On MONDAY AFTERNOON the ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING will be held in WEIGH HOUSE CHAPEL. Tea and Coffee in Lecture Hall at Five o'clock. The Chair will be taken by Dr. JOHN KENNEDY at Six o'clock.

The ordinary SESSION of the UNION will be held in POULTRY CHAPEL on TUESDAY and FRIDAY, May 7th and 10th, at 9.30 a.m. Papers will be read by the Rev. S. Hebditch (Bristol), on "Genuine Revival of Religion"; by the Rev. J. G. Rogers (Clapham), on the Question, "How the element of religion in Primary education is to be provided for?" by Dr. Mullens, on "Church Councils; and, by the Rev. A. Thomson (Manchester), on "The Moral Condition of Society Viewed in Relation to the Church's Work."

The FOUNDATION-STONE of the MEMORIAL HALL will be laid by JOHN REMINGTON MILLS, Esq., on the Afternoon of FRIDAY, 10th May, at Four o'clock.

On the Evening of the same day a CONVERSAZIONE will be held in CANNON-STREET HOTEL. Tea and Coffee at Five o'clock. The Chair will be taken by HUGH MASON, Esq., Ashton-under-Lyne, at Six o'clock.

ALEXANDER HANNAY, Secretary.
18, South-street, Finsbury, 16th April, 1872.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

ANNIVERSARY SERMONS will be preached in aid of the Society's Funds as follows:—

To-Morrow (Thursday) MORNING, April 25th, at Eleven o'clock, in the LARGE ROOM of the CENTENARY HALL, BISHOPSGATE-STREET WITHIN, the Rev. JOHN H. JAMES, D.D., President of the Conference.

And on FRIDAY MORNING, April 26th, at Eleven o'clock, in GREAT QUEEN-STREET CHAPEL, LINCOLN'S-INN-FIELDS, the Rev. NEWMAN HALL, LL.B., Minister of Surrey Chapel, Blackfriars-road.

WESLEYAN MISSION TO CHINA.

On SATURDAY, April 27th, it is proposed to hold a BREAKFAST MEETING at the CITY TERMINUS HOTEL, CANNON-STREET STATION, at Nine o'clock in the Morning, in behalf of the Society's Mission to China. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, which may be had at the Centenary Hall, Bishopsgate-street Within. The Chair to be taken by ISAAC HOYLE, Esq., of Manchester.

MISSIONS TO CHINA.

THE ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in ENGLAND will be held (p.v.) on the Evening of WEDNESDAY, 1st May, in EXETER HALL, at Seven o'clock, the Right Honourable the Earl of CAVAN in the Chair.

The following will take part in the Meeting:—The Moderator of Synod; Rev. Carstairs Douglas, from Amoy; Dr. James L. Maxwell, from Formosa; Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D.; Rev. Adolph Saphir; Rev. W. P. Mackay, of Hull; Rev. Dr. Patterson, of Chicago; and Mr. Brownlow North. Tickets may be obtained from the Office-bearers of the Presbyterian Churches in London.

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